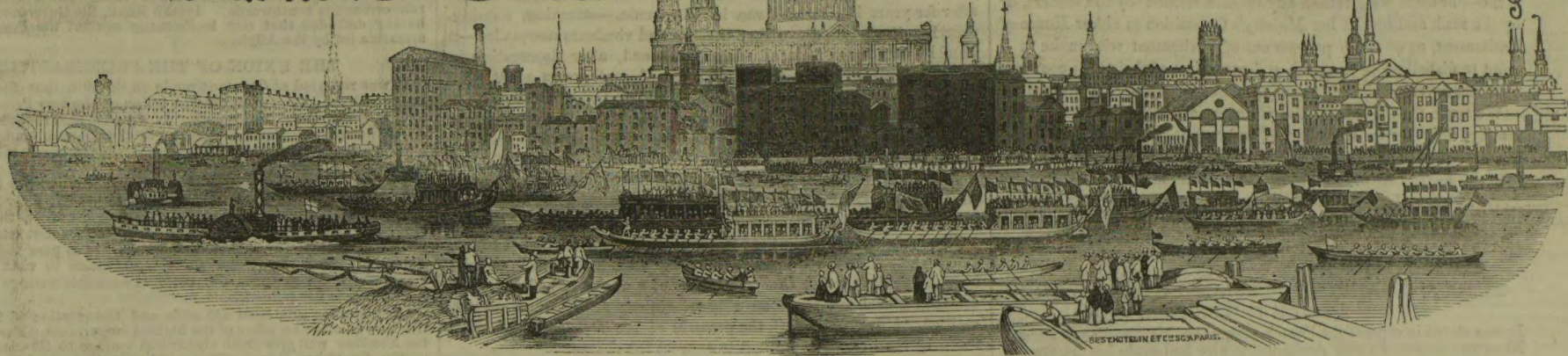


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[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, FIVEPENCE.]

THE CHINESE WAR.

THE first intelligence of the bombardment of Canton took the public by surprise. In the absence of authentic information, those estimable persons who prize above all things the truly British privilege of abusing the Government and its functionaries, at home and abroad, jumped to the conclusion that the Chinese must have been right in all that they had done, or refused to do; and that, consequently, the bombardment was a shameful and brutal massacre. It was not only the Peace-at-all-price party, who seem never to be so happy as when they are carrying on a paper war against their own countrymen, who indulged themselves in these fierce invectives, but a considerable number of more reasonable politicians were ready to condemn Sir John Bowring, Mr. Consul Parkes, Admiral Seymour, and Lord Palmerston, for precipitation and cruelty. The indictment gradually shaped itself into several distinct counts or heads, which a person no less eminent than the Earl of Derby undertook to set forth in his place in Parliament, and which may be thus classified.—Firstly, that the *Arrow* lorch was the original cause of the whole dispute—was not under the protection of the British flag when boarded by the Chinese, her register, or right of trading, under that flag having expired, and that, consequently, the war was unjust and wicked. Secondly, that the offer of Governor Yeh to restore to British authority all the crew of the lorch, with the exception of the alleged pirate and his father, was a sufficient satisfaction of British demands; and that a bombardment under such circumstances was wanton aggression and unpardonable cruelty. Thirdly, that, even if this concession on the part of Yeh was not all that might have been expected, it would have been wiser and more humane to have accepted it rather than resort to hostilities. There was yet another count in the indictment, which grew out of the previous three, to the effect that the whole of the proceedings were but a pretext to enforce compliance on the part of the people of Canton with a treaty which they had repudiated; and that the free admission into the city claimed by our traders would not tend to the advantage of British commerce, or the increase of legitimate British influence in China.

The publication of the official correspondence of our functionaries in China with the Home Government, which has just been presented to Parliament, will enable all Englishmen who are jealous of the honour of their country, and who desire that it never should be engaged in any war that is not only just but inevitable, to form a correct opinion upon the whole of this unhappy dispute. We believe the correspondence will satisfy all reasonable men, who look upon the case without prejudice, and who do not bedim the ordinary clearness of their vision by the foregone conclusion that the British Government must necessarily be wrong whenever it fires a gun, except upon parade, or as a holiday salute, that our officials in the East had no alternative but to act as they did, and that they performed a stern duty with remarkable forbearance and good feeling. Taking the indictment under the four heads above set forth, the public will be enabled to gather upon each sufficient information to justify it in granting to the Government, a full acquittal for the past, and cordial support for the future.

We shall take the charges *seriatim*. In the first place, it is clearly proved that the *Arrow* had legally obtained from Sir John Bowring at Hong-Kong a title to bear the British flag and to enjoy all its protection; and that, although the date of the register had actually expired, the document was legally in force until the vessel returned to Hong-Kong to renew it. It is further proved that the name of the vessel was inscribed upon its stern in British as well as Chinese characters;—that the British flag was flying when the *Arrow* was boarded by the Chinese;—that the captain, an Englishman, who had accidentally gone on board another English craft, the *Dart*, at the distance of fifty yards from his own vessel, distinctly saw the British ensign hauled down by the Chinese;—and that his evidence is corroborated by other Englishmen as well as Chinese. Lastly, it is proved that, although the registry of the *Arrow* was actually out of date, it was legally in force;—and that the Chinese authorities were not aware of the fact of its expiry until some days after the outrage had been committed. So much for the first count of the indictment.

As regards the second, that Yeh offered sufficient amends to satisfy the outraged honour of the British flag, and the unjustifiable breach of solemn treaty, we do not expect that public opinion will be quite so clear. It is difficult to say what is sufficient apology and reparation in cases of insult; for much depends upon the character of the aggression. The ungracious and tardy offer of Yeh to deliver up ten men out of twelve whom he had illegally seized was a begging of the question. The Chinese only alleged that one man was a pirate. Why should they have been permitted to retain two? And if the one man were accused of piracy, Consul Parkes, if applied to in the proper manner defined by

treaty, would have been bound to deliver him up to the Chinese authorities to be dealt with according to Chinese law; so that Yeh had not the shadow of a justification for the retention of the supposed delinquent. It is obvious that under such circumstances the British authorities would have stultified themselves if they had accepted such an apology as this, which, while it would have settled nothing for the future, would have degraded and weakened them in the mean time, and rendered them powerless in case of any future misunderstanding with the Chinese.

As regards the third point, it is sufficient to allege that severity is not necessarily cruelty, but may be the truest mercy in the end. To put up with insult is wise and Christian to a certain extent, both on the part of nations and of individuals. Great Britain wisely and considerably did not resent the insult inflicted upon it by the Government of the United States in dismissing Mr. Crampton, because it had no reason to believe that the insult was malicious and premeditated, or that it would lead to future and increased misunderstanding. But the insult offered by Yeh was one of a long series. It was proof positive of malice and insolence.

It would, if submitted to, have inevitably led to other insults grosser and more intolerable. The whole intercourse of the British and Chinese at Canton was of a most uncomfortable and explosive character. It was wise to take advantage of the wrong done by the Chinese, in order to stop future aggression and dry up the sources of quarrel. No one can say that Governor Yeh was not allowed ample time for deliberation. If he had had the slightest wisdom, the slightest good feeling, the slightest regard for the sanctity of a treaty which his Government, and consequently himself as its administrator, had solemnly undertaken to observe, he would have at least accorded to Admiral Seymour the personal interview which was demanded. Had he done so there would have been no bombardment. Everything shows how unwillingly this *ultima ratio* was resorted to both by our civil and military authorities; and everything proves in the same degree that Yeh—a man who is as bloody-minded as he is obdurate—was entirely to blame for all the evil consequences that have resulted.

As regards the last point, we may leave it to the English at Canton—and not to a Lord born in the pre-scientific age, and



FEROUK KHAN, THE PERSIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



who, when a Minister for the Colonies, declared Demerara to be an island—to decide whether or not any advantage would accrue to British commerce from the admission of British subjects into the city of Canton. British merchants, if they know anything, know their own interests. Treaty accords them the right of free ingress and egress at Canton; and, if they can calculate the advantages derivable from it, their opinion must have due weight at home—far more weight than any opinion formed by the leaders, or by the rank and file, of her Majesty's Opposition in either House of Parliament, or of those persons out of Parliament who make it a point to disbelieve in the truth and patriotism of their own countrymen whenever a misunderstanding arises in any part of the world.

We trust, for the sake of the Chinese, and for the sake of humanity, that the war will speedily be brought to a conclusion. But, if the case should be otherwise, the correspondence shows that our officials have neither acted illegally, nor hastily, nor cruelly. Parliament, we have no doubt, will ratify their policy, and support them in all the ulterior measures that may be necessary to give effect to it.

FEROUK KHAN, THE PERSIAN ENVOY TO THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH.

It was stated in some of the French papers that his Excellency Ferouk Khan was the first Persian Ambassador who had made his appearance in Paris for nearly a century and a half. This is a mistake. Envoys from the Shah of Persia have been received at the French Court at various times during the present century. Upon the preceding page we have engraved a Portrait of the Envoy now in Paris, sketched from a miniature painted by a Persian artist. His costume consists of a green tunic, crossed by a blue ribbon; a cashmere pelisse, lined with fur, and having on each side a diamond agrette; his sword and belt are also studded with brilliants; and he wears suspended from his neck a portrait of the Shah of Persia, set in diamonds.

The movements of the Envoy in Paris have from time to time been recorded in our Journal. His Excellency was present at a magnificent ball at the Tuileries on the 29th ult., and divided the honours of the evening with the Russian Prince Yusupoff, whose display of diamonds fully rivals that of the representative of the Shah. Ferouk Khan was also the guest of the evening on the 4th inst. at a brilliant entertainment given at the Hôtel de Ville. He was attended by the principal members of his suite. After being formally introduced to Madame Hausmann, he was conducted through the ball-room to a reserved *salon*, from which he presently emerged, and went through the principal rooms, with the superb and tasteful decorations of which he professed himself much struck.

With regard to the object of the mission of the Persian Envoy, Ferouk Khan has, it seems, full power to negotiate with England, and is in communication with Lord Cowley (the Persians are abstemious at table, and may safely be welcomed to the embassy), and therefore Russia, true to her game of deception, is filling the Continental journals with her protests against the exorbitant demands of England; and, it is said, by instructing her Generals to make demonstrations along the Caspian Sea. The Shah has not studied under his Russian friends in vain, and has issued an account of the capture of Bushire, which fell, says his Majesty, "without a blow from the invaders, the defenders having had no orders to resist." *Apropos* whereof it seems, that towards the end of the war, even the Russians, comprehended the ludicrous side of their Government notifications, and used to make caricatures upon the subject. One of these pictures represented St. Peter keeping the celestial gate, and various soldiers of all nations who had fallen in the campaign coming to him for admission. A troop of French come, state their nation, and are sent in. Then some English come, and the saint, rather grudgingly, lets them in also. Some slain Turks are recommended to apply at some other door. Then comes a great column of Russians. "Who are you all?" "Ten thousand Russians who were killed at Inkerman." "Get out with you, you scoundrels and impostors!" shouts St. Peter (still irascible); "do you think I don't read the Russian papers, and that I don't know that not quite five hundred were killed there? Be off with you!"

The latest intelligence received from Paris states that Ferouk Khan was expected to leave that capital for London in a few days; where, adds the correspondent, "if we can credit the accounts just received from Persia, his task will not be difficult."

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

At the Palace of the Elysée preparations are going on for the reception of the Emperor and Empress, who are expected to pass the spring there, in consequence of the necessity of repairing the Pavillon de Flore and other parts of the Tuileries, which for a considerable time have been in bad condition. It is reported that the explosion which formerly took place of the powder-magazine at Grenoble had something to do with the crazy state of a large portion of the Palace, especially along the quay. Whatever may have been the cause of the damage, it is certain that the necessity of vast repairs, if not of reconstruction, becomes every day more urgent. Two plans have, at different times, been drawn out and submitted to the Emperor, either of which the state of the public finances prevented hitherto being put into execution. Now, however, delay becomes danger, and the required works are about shortly to be set on foot.

It is rumoured that there exists a set of memoirs, written and arranged in due form by the Princess Lieven; but better-informed chroniclers generally deny that such is the case, and affirm that the Princess only left notes, correspondence, and other documents suitable to form materials for a memoir, and that these, with the rest of her papers, were by her confided to M. Guizot, to be disposed of according to his discretion; that among them are a vast number of letters from Prince Metternich, the Duke of Wellington, Canning, and, in fact, most of the remarkable personages, including a number of the crowned heads, of the day; and that many of these papers are of so delicate and important a nature that the publication of them—at all events during the existence of the present generation—is impossible. It is even whispered that the Russian Embassy has interfered in the matter, and is endeavouring to obtain from M. Guizot the cession of a certain portion of the documents in question.

The speech of M. Guizot, at the Institute, met with the highest success—as was anticipated; that of M. Biot was well received by those who heard it, which was not a very large proportion of the audience. A number of the chief members of the Institute, including MM. Thiers, Berryer, Montalembert, de Broglie, Duchâtel, &c., were present on the occasion.

There have been many assertions and contradictions relative to the fact of the Comte de Chambord having desired his adherents to refrain from voting in the approaching elections. The truth seems to be that the reality of the reports hung on a word; that the Comte de Chambord has not desired his followers to adopt such a line of conduct, but has expressed his wish on the subject, and declared that he considered it the only one they could properly adhere to.

The controversies, religious and otherwise, respecting the assassin Verger, have risen to such a height that it is said the Government has interfered to put a stop to their publication. However this may be, it is certain they have suddenly fallen into silence within a few days. Crowds daily proceed to the Ecole de Médecine, to see the model of

the criminal's head; and a few days since an encumbrance took place in the Rue de l'Ecole de Médecine, before the stall of a marchand de plâtres moulés, to look at a cast which it was reported was that of the murderer. It has been forbidden by the superior authorities to execute any casts of the head for sale.

The nomination of the new Archbishop has been a severe blow to the Ultramontane party, which in all points loses ground in France. The *Univers* has lowered its tone in an extraordinary degree; and after for years leading the van in all polemics—attacking, abusing, decrying its opponents with a ferocity and virulence unequalled—it humbly withdraws from all discussion, and, after deprecating in meek regretful terms the bitter tone of controversy adopted by the religious press (!!!), declares that nothing shall induce it to enter in future into any such disputes! and this after the vehement attack made on the party of the *Univers* by M. de Montalembert in his article on the new edition of the "Mémoires de St. Simon."

Last week took place a magnificent ball at the Hôtel de Ville, at which figured the Persian Ambassador and the principal officers of his suite.

The *Revue de Paris*, in the persons of MM. Laurent Pichat editor, Pillet printer, and Flaubert author, has been acquitted in a trial brought against it for the publication of a work by the last-named defendant, declared to be an offence against religion and morals, entitled "Mme. Bovary," the grounds of the accusation not being found by the Tribunal sufficient to support the charge.

The enormous reductions made on the total of the Budget allow of a small number of augmentations on certain points. Among the privileged bodies is that of the Legion of Honour, to whose resources will be added a sum of four millions of francs.

It appears that we are to be blessed with a spring and early summer such as have not been seen for a long time. A certain Abbé, whose name we cannot confide to our readers for the excellent reason that he is unknown to ourselves, has for a series of years applied himself with such success and attention to meteorological observations, that his predictions prove, so we are assured, almost unfailing. Well, the Abbé in question declares that, from March till July, we are to have an almost uninterrupted series of fine weather—warm, genial, and in all respects seasonable and favourable to agriculture. On the other hand, a German astronomer, said to be of high reputation and great erudition, assures us that the march of a comet now approaching the earth will compass its entire destruction; and he even fixes the day—the 13th June—for the said catastrophe to arrive.

It appears that Eugène Sue, in his retreat at Annecy, in Savoy, has become the object of the peculiar animosity of the clergy of the place, whether on account of his general principles, or from any more definite and recent cause, does not appear. However this may be, we are assured that the peasants who have been in the habit of supplying his wants and working for him are now interdicted by their spiritual adviser from so doing, and that some of those who have rendered him the most ordinary services have been refused absolution in consequence.

The dance which alone finds favour in the sight of the beau monde this season has been borrowed from the choregraphic repertoire of our barbarous island: this is the *Lancers*, our old Lancers, quadrille, somewhat decked up and revived, and two or three new steps and figures thrown in, but, notwithstanding these alterations, in the main the same as the dance that was quitting the dancing-school about the time we were entering it. This is a feather in the cap of us poor insulars, who hitherto have been supposed to have no indigenous Terpsichorean exercise but "le jig."

At last the "Question d'Argent" of A. Dumas, fils, has made its appearance, and been crowned with success. It is a most clever piece, full of wit, sparkle, and observation; but the characters excite neither interest nor sympathy; many of them are very indifferently sustained; and, instead of any of the passion and dramatic interest the subject admitted of, the thing is cold, hard, business-like, and full of the details of the every-day life of speculators and worshippers of the golden calf in general. Many of the materials for the piece were furnished by a certain *spirituel* physician, as well versed in finance as in medicine.

THE WAR WITH PERSIA.

It was confidently affirmed in the early part of the week that the Persian difficulty was all but settled. The interviews of Ferouk Khan with Lord Cowley had resulted in a satisfactory basis of arrangement. Persia was to evacuate Herat, and England to restore Bushire, on the condition that we should be allowed an establishment on the Isle of Karak, and the right of way through Fars, Kerman, and other provinces, for the purposes of the Euphrates Railway. The report has not been confirmed, however, although the prevailing impression is that the war will not last.

The *Presse d'Orient* of the 2nd inst. gives the following as items from its latest letters from Teheran, down to the 1st January:—"The most important point is the despatch of an Ambassador to the Shah of Persia from the Khan of Khiva. The intelligence of the fall of Herat had excited a great sensation among the Turcoman population to the south-east of the Caspian Sea. The Khan of Khiva, whose territories border on Khorassan, and who had been guilty of some acts of hostility against Persia, hastened to send an Embassy to Nasser-ed-din Shah. He charged his own brother with this mission, in conjunction with the brother of the chief of the Jemonts, a powerful nomad tribe. Accounts had been received at Teheran of the arrival of these chiefs at Astrabad. In order to secure a good reception for his Embassy, the Khan of Khiva had sent back into Persia 10,000 Turcoman families of Khorassan, and 1000 Persian families who had been reduced to slavery. The Kokhans, a Turcoman tribe established on the Tows, had also re-entered Khorassan, where a district near Kariak had been assigned them. In consequence of a quarrel, however, between these Kokhans and other Turcomans, the Governor-General of Astrabad had dispatched a force, and removed the tribe near to Kalpanch. Among the Candahar chiefs who have made their submission to the Sultan is (says the *Teheran Gazette*) one of the most important men in the country—Ahmed Khan, son of the Sirdar Mehemet-Azim Khan."

The *Teheran Gazette* of the 24th of December contains a kind of "exposé des motifs" in answer to the declaration of war received from Calcutta. This document throws all the blame of the Herat affair on the people of that city, and on Dost Mohammed—whom, however, it accuses England of exciting and sustaining.

The Governor of Tabriz had called for the garrison from Maraga to put down an insurrectionary movement of the population; and, as soon as the troops had quitted Maraga, that place was attacked by the tribes of Bakarlou and Moukadout, and the mosques sacked. The town of Maraga is in the extreme north-west corner of Persia, and is situated on the Saffee, not far from the spot where that stream falls into Lake Urmia. It is about fifty miles south-west of Tabriz. It was formerly a place of some importance, but of late years has greatly declined.

The statement made by the Russian Embassy at Berlin, that the Persian Court, on learning the fall of Herat, had manifested an intention to push hostilities to their utmost verge, and had declared a holy war, is contradicted by the *Pays*, which says, the only step taken by the Court of Teheran, on hearing of the occupation of the Persian Gulf, was to order its army of the south to put itself in motion so as to cover Farsistan. That order was immediately carried out. The vanguard of the first division, commanded by Fezlah Khan, already occupies the defiles, and in the first week of February Meerza Mohammed Khan will occupy Shiraz, the chief town of Farsistan, where he will establish his headquarters. Notwithstanding these orders the Persian Government has not ceased to evince a disposition to treat for peace; but in taking these defensive positions it clearly intends to provide for its own interests while negotiating for a restoration of peace.

The news from Constantinople states that the latest intelligence received in that city from Asia announced that the Russians "appeared" about to march into Persia.

Fifteen English vessels were at anchor off Bender-Abbas, and received supplies from Bagdad.

By letters from St. Petersburg, dated Feb. 11, we have the following items of news from Teheran to the 3rd of January:—

Since the taking of Bushire the English have attempted nothing. A squadron had appeared off Port Mohammaree, at the mouth of the Shat-al-Arab. The garrison were ordered to resist. The Persians are sending reinforcements southwards. Isaakh Khan, the Governor of Herat, after having defended that city ineffectually against the Persians, has been assassinated by the Afghans.

THE UNION OF THE PRINCIPALITIES.

It was reported at Constantinople on the 29th that the Moldo-Wallachian Divans would propose the union of the two Principalities into one, by a considerable majority. It was also said that the Porte would altogether relinquish its resistance to the scheme, and content itself with stipulating that no foreign Prince should become the Sovereign of the new State.

The article in the *Moniteur* of the 4th, relative to the future organisation of the Danubian Principalities, has produced a very unpleasant impression at Vienna. The *Vienna Presse* observes, that the recent policy of France in the Eastern question cannot excite astonishment, if it is considered that Count Morny is to pass the winter at St. Petersburg, and the Grand Duke Constantine to visit the Emperor Napoleon in the spring. The most remarkable passage in the article in question is the following:—

The mask has now been laid aside, and the question of the Principalities is to be made an affair of the highest importance. The declaration of the *Moniteur* will give fresh vigour and courage to Russia, for the union of the Danubian Principalities will be the first great step towards the breaking up of Turkey—it will be a positive encroachment on the sovereign rights of the Sultan, and an act of hostility towards the Powers which closed up the land and sea routes from Russia to Constantinople.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* says:—

There was a rumour at one time that a certain high functionary, who, no doubt, thinks he is the best judge of his own deserts, had cast his eye on the Moldo-Wallachian crown, even if the crown were some degrees below a Royal one. The rumour was, no doubt, an absurd one, and it may therefore be dismissed. There is, however, now in Paris one of those petty Princes who roam about, like wandering stars, in the political horizon. The Duke of Nassau has, it seems, come highly recommended by the Queen of Holland to some members of the Imperial family, as well as to the Emperor himself. Her Dutch Majesty is reported to have said, or written, in a charming off-hand sort of way, alluding to the Principalities:—"Voyons; est-ce qu'on ne peut pas faire quelque chose pour ce pauvre petit Nassau." The Duke would probably make as good a Prince of Moldo-Wallachia as any one else; and if it be true that he is betrothed to a daughter of the Duke of Leuchtenberg, the niece of the Emperor of Russia, and cousin of the Emperor of the French, Russia would not any more than France pronounce him ineligible, in the event of the Principalities being united and a foreign Prince placed over them.

The Vienna journals express themselves strongly against the note in the *Moniteur* relative to the Principalities. The *Ost. Deutsche Post* is particularly remarkable for its violence. As to the *Augsburg Gazette*, its language, as becomes an official organ, is less violent.

Accounts from Bucharest of the 2nd state that the Austrian troops in the neighbourhood were making preparations to depart, but that for the moment no idea of moving could be entertained, as the cold was intense, whilst the high grounds were too deeply covered with snow to permit the transport without a heavy loss of artillery and baggage.

AMERICA.

The Cunard Royal Mail steam-ship *America*, which left Boston on the 29th ult., arrived at Liverpool on Wednesday. Owing to the severity of the weather when she sailed from Boston, the harbour was covered with ice, and a passage had to be cut through it for a distance of eight miles, before the *America* could proceed to sea. The ice was two feet thick. The merchants of Boston were at the expense of the operation. The *America* appears to have suffered considerable damage, having a large quantity of copper torn from her hull, and many of her paddle-floats broken or carried away. It was just thirteen years before when a passage of two miles had to be made for the *Britannia* steam-ship, of the same line, to enable her to proceed to sea from Boston harbour.

In the House of Representatives, on the 27th ult., Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a modified Tariff Bill. It embraced the following features:—Schedules 5, 10, and 15 per cent of the Act of 1846, with few exceptions, are observed by the free list; the 40 per cent schedule, principally spices, is also, with the exception of a few items, carried to the free list, which reduces the revenue about 6,000,000 dols.; the 100 per cent schedule, spirits, is brought down one-half. Sugar, molasses, lead, salt, wool, and hemp are put at 10 per cent, reducing the revenue about 7,000,000 dollars. Iron, cotton, woollen, and silk manufactures are retained as now. The old 20, 25, and 30 per cent schedules are not materially changed, but some items in them are carried to the free list. The direct reduction of the revenue annually will be about 13,000,000 dollars, which, it is supposed, will be increased some millions by the effects of the measure in substituting home manufactures for those imported.

The President elect, Mr. James Buchanan, arrived at Washington on the 27th ult. There was a number of his friends awaiting his arrival, but no public reception took place.

The Hon. Preston K. Brooks, well known as the "caner" of Mr. Sumner, in the House of Representatives, died at Washington on the 27th ult., at Brown's Hotel. He had been in bed a day or two, suffering from the effects of a severe cold. He was telling his friends he had passed the crisis of his illness, and felt considerably improved in health, when he was seized with violent croup, and died in about ten minutes afterwards. He expired in intense pain. Perhaps an American journalist's record of the event may fittingly be substituted for a foreigner's obituary. The *Atlas*, of Boston, observes:—"The sudden death of Preston S. Brooks, by one of the most virulent and painful diseases that afflict humanity, can scarcely fail to impress the public as a signal instance of Divine retribution for atrocious and peculiar crime. A bold and arrogant man, while yet boasting of his dastardly outrage—while yet swaggering with the barbaric honours showered upon him by a brutalised constituency—his lips still quivering with threats against the friends and associates of his victim—is seized by the throat by an invisible and irresistible grasp, and strangled to death. He died, says a despatch from Washington, a horrid death, suffering intensely, and endeavouring to tear his own throat open to get breath."

In the House of Representatives, the Submarine (European and American) Telegraph Bill had been referred to a Committee of Ways and Means.

New Orleans advices state that the recent snowstorm did not prevail with any violence further south than Columbia. The cold had been intense, and the railroads were stopped, owing to the impossibility of getting water.

The British steamer *Thames* arrived at Aspinwall Jan. 19, from Greytown, bringing thirty-five of Walker's men, who were transferred to the steamer *Grenada*, which immediately left for Greytown to receive the filibusters brought out by the *Texas* and *James Adger*, and convey them to New Orleans. Walker had evacuated Rivas, and was at St. George's, surrounded by the allies, who had offered him terms of surrender; and, as he was cut off from his supplies, it was hourly expected he would surrender. It was reported that the steamer *Sierra Nevada* had been captured by the Costa Ricans.

COLONIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The following appointments have been made at the Colonial office:—T. Havers, Esq., to be a member of the Executive Council of the Falkland Islands; Sir C. A. H. Rumbold, Bart., to be President of the Council of Nevis; T. Price, Esq., to be President of the Council of the Virgin Islands; S. T. Pemberton, Esq., to be a member of the Council of Nevis; J. Aldous and W. Forgan, Esqrs., to be members of the Legislative Council of Prince Edward Island; John J. Robinson, Esq., to be a member of the Legislative Council of New Brunswick; and E. W. Alexander, Esq., to be colonial surgeon at St. Helena.

SIR JAMSETJEE JEEJEHOY.—A deputation—consisting of Colonel Sykes (Chairman of the Court of Directors of the East India Company), Sir George Anderson, Mr. John Abel Smith, M.P.; Mr. G. Moffatt, M.P.; and Mr. H. B. E. Freere, Chief Commissioner of Sindh—had an interview with Lord Palmerston on the 29th ult.; the object being to represent to the Premier the distinguished merit of Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy, of Bombay, and to request that his Lordship would solicit from her Majesty the additional honour of a Baronetcy for that gentleman. A Portrait and Memoir of Sir Jamsetjee appeared in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS for December 6, 1856.

WE regret to learn (says the *Brechin Advertiser*) that Mr. W. E. Baxter, M.P., has been confined to bed by a severe attack of illness, and is therefore unable to resume his Parliamentary duties.

SKETCHES IN PARLIAMENT.

THE House of Commons is prone to finishing the week with a hard night's work. The sittings on Fridays are generally the most prolonged, and often the most important, of the week; and the vitality of members is always so apparent on that night that it leads to a notion that they wish to show that they have earned their holiday on Saturday. It could only have been the influence of this feeling which led to the attenuation of the debate on the Bank Charter Act on Friday last. The character of the discussion may be sufficiently indicated by the fact that Lord Overstone (who, when he forsook the name of Jones Loyd, was supposed to have also forsaken everything but the theory of banking, which he has recently been illustrating in the well-known letters to the *Times* signed "Mercator") was in the gallery, and was fast asleep for the greater portion of the evening. The subject was money, and the theories which were occasionally broached were sufficiently startling; but, nevertheless, the number of somnolent members bore a very remarkable proportion to the small number that wakefully sat out the debate. Certainly, its inception by the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer was calculated to act like "drowsy syrups" on his hearers; and there was nothing afterwards to rouse them except, perhaps, the sharp intelligence of Mr. Glyn's speech, the curious revelations made in his short business-like speech by Mr. Ingram with regard to the large percentage which fundholders pay to the Bank of England for managing their affairs for them, and the singular infelicity of Sir Charles Wood in clearing up the confusion into which the debate had fallen. One of the wonders of the House is Sir Charles Wood rising to "explain." At least this deduction seemed to be elicited from the proceedings, that, if the Bank of England succeeds in getting one more renewal of its charter in its present form, that must be the last.

Soon after his accession to the Premiership it became the fashion to liken the position of Lord Palmerston to that of Lord Chatham; and the phrase of the "modern Chatham" is a favourite irony of Mr. Disraeli, when he is in wordy combat with the Premier. It would seem as if the Prime Minister was destined to carry out the parallel with even physical exactitude, for his fits of the gout are becoming more frequent; and he evinces quite as great an aptitude for governing the country from his couch, with his "flannels gracefully arranged," as did his great prototype. Although absent from the House from the second day of the Session until Tuesday last, his spirit has, nevertheless, animated the conduct of the Government business; and it has been observed that temporary responsibility has actually roused Sir Cornwall Lewis out of his usual apathetic manner. It could hardly have been anticipated that the Government had such a bold measure in contemplation for taking the wind out of the sails of their opponents as the bringing on of the Budget on the thirteenth day of the Session. There was a lurking mischief in the usually downcast and inexpressive eyes of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and almost a chuckle in the tone of his voice, when he announced that fact to the gentlemen who, a few hours before, had so haughtily refused to bate an hour of the time they had fixed for bringing on their motions on the subject of the Income-tax. Mr. Disraeli was anticipated by a fortnight; and Major Reed felt his political capital for the Session collapse in his grasp. Even Mr. Gladstone looked discomfited; and a sort of restlessness with which he seems to have become troubled, and which appears as if it were neuralgic, was visibly increased. In short, as Christopher North said of Wellington and the French at Waterloo, if the Opposition intended to surprise the Government, the Government contrived to astonish them.

The earnestness with which Mr. Disraeli had inquired when he should have the pleasure of meeting Lord Palmerston face to face on the subject of the "Secret Treaty" very naturally caused a large gathering of members on Tuesday to witness a favourite diversion of our legislators—a personal encounter between two of its celebrities. The outward world, too, mustered thickly in the Strangers' Gallery; the seats appropriated to Peers were thronged, among the most notable members of the Upper House being Lord Derby, Lord Malmesbury, Lord Eglinton, Lord Stanhope, Lord Wensleydale, &c., &c.; while in the Ambassadors' Gallery the diplomatic corps was fully represented. Conspicuous among them sat the sable Plenipotentiary of the Emperor of Hayti, in curious juxtaposition to Mr. Dallas, the American Minister—a sufficiently suggestive spectacle. Mr. Disraeli was evidently impatient, for he came into the House a minute or two before four o'clock, and he wore an air of calm triumph that was but little prophetic of the result of the occasion. At this time it was whispered about the House that Lord Palmerston was still unable to attend; but the rumour was practically contradicted by the large attendance of those who were sure to know whether the expected feat of intellectual gladiatorialship was really to come off. Accordingly, at twenty minutes to five the First Minister appeared, looking pale, his pallor set off by a suit of deep black. He was still slightly lame, and leaned heavily while he was speaking on a fine specimen of stalwart Irish blackthorn. The usual preliminary questions and answers were listened to with visible impatience; and at length, amidst the profoundest silence, Mr. Disraeli rose, and commenced, in low, measured, and even tremulous tones, the first sentence of his address. But he was doomed to the greatest misfortune that can happen to an orator in a set speech—an early interruption. Whether Mr. Thomas Duncombe's interposition was spontaneous, or whether it was part of a plan, the effect was the same. Although no longer the "Tom of Ten Thousand"—although his manly beauty has, alas! been somewhat changed by time and sickness—Mr. Duncombe still has the power of making the House listen; and, if the object was to disconcert Mr. Disraeli, to a certain extent it was successful. It seemed as if the heaviness—not to say ponderosity—of the greater part of his observations was caused by this interruption of his ideas in their first flow; and, what was worse, in a few moments he must have perceived that the House was not with him. He got angry; for he got paler and paler—he never reddens with rage, because his rage is always suppressed and inward—but more, he got irritated, because he saw that Lord Palmerston was listening to the whispers of the Attorney-General instead of to him; and he uttered a parenthetical rudeness on that point, which was not lost on the House; and, when Lord Palmerston (probably with a sinister view, like that which instigated the contemptuous throwing away of his notes of Erskine's first speech by Pitt) actually left the House for a short time at the most critical juncture of his speech, Mr. Disraeli's mortification must have been complete. The manner in which he endeavoured to prove his reiterated charge was so vague and unsatisfactory that the House after a while ceased to preserve entire silence; while Lord Derby, watching with intense vigilance the proceedings, was observed to look grave, then to grow fidgety, and then to whisper ominously to Lord Malmesbury. The cheers from the Opposition benches which greeted what were intended to be the striking points of the speech were neither frequent nor hearty; while the attempt at pathos at the conclusion was without doubt a failure.

With every advantage, then, Lord Palmerston rose to reply, and certainly his address smacked neither of gout nor water-gruel. The matter of it may have been to a certain degree open to the objection, that it was rather a specimen of his skill in getting out of difficulties; but, as a mere reply to that of his opponent, it was triumphant, and that because he succeeded in doing that in which Mr. Disraeli failed—and which is everything in a House of Commons' discussion—he carried the House with him. If there be anything in the opinion of the generality of those who witnessed this "keen encounter of wits," it is not at all probable that there will be a third performance of the drama of the "Secret Treaty."

The vacant seats in the Commons are fast filling by the termination of most of the new elections; and in connection with that subject it may be mentioned that the loss which the conductors of the private business of the House sustained by the death of Mr. Brotherton has been supplied by Mr. Duncan, the member for Dundee, who has undertaken the arduous duty of introducing and carrying through their first stages most of the private bills (more numerous by-the-by than they have been for the last three years) of the Session. It is understood that Mr. Oliveira had endeavoured to qualify himself for this part; but he has apparently yielded to the claims of the most assiduous and regular attendant in the House, Mr. Duncan.

The House of Lords has been distinguished principally by the fact of the reappearance, in vigour as unimpaired as it was last year, of Lord Lyndhurst, who still takes a part in its discussions, which, under all the circumstances, must be called active. It is not improbable that his Lordship will again deliver one or two of those orations which have made him the most famous octogenarian of this or indeed of most times. It may, perhaps, be thought to be starting an unkind heresy if it were to be hinted that the most ardent well-wishers of the noble and learned Lord must be desirous that he should abstain at least from that species of Parliamentary duty. It cannot be disguised that last year, wonderful as they were, all things considered, yet if his set speeches had been delivered by any one but Lord Lyndhurst they would not have attracted any marked attention. With the observation that the Lord Chancellor seems to have stumbled almost on the very threshold of his law reforms, the Upper House may be left to the comparative repose which it is accustomed to enjoy at this period of the year.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

MR. FITZHERBERT.

THOMAS FITZHERBERT, Esq., of Norbury, in the county of Derby, and of Swinerton, in the county of Stafford, the head and representative of one of the oldest and most important untitled families in the empire, was the eldest son of Basil Fitzherbert, Esq., of Norbury and Swinerton, and the nephew of that Mr. Fitzherbert whose widow was the celebrated and universally respected Mrs. Fitzherbert of the time of George IV. Thomas Fitzherbert, the subject of this notice, was born the 21st Jan., 1789, and succeeded his father the 22nd Nov., 1799. He married, the 15th July, 1809, Mary Anne Sophia, daughter of John Palmer Chichester, Esq., of Arlington, Devonshire, by whom he leaves an only son, Charles, his successor. Mr. Fitzherbert died on the 4th inst., at his residence, 15, Clarges street, Piccadilly. He was the twenty-sixth

lord of the manor of Norbury and the tenth lord of that of Swinerton. His family name appears on the roll of Battle Abbey, and his race has flourished in England ever since the Conquest. We find among these Fitzherberts many a renowned knight, cavalier, soldier, and civilian. The most distinguished of the house was the great lawyer, Sir Anthony Fitzherbert, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, whose learned work, "De Natura Brevium," is a famous and favourite tome with jurists.

GENERAL WALKER.

GENERAL FREDERICK WALKER, of the Manor House, Bushey, Herts, K.C.H., Colonel of the 7th Battalion of the Royal Artillery, whose death occurred on the 3rd inst., entered the Royal Artillery in 1793. In 1794 he joined the army under the Duke of York in Holland, where he won renown on several occasions, especially (when engaged with Count Hammarstein's Hanoverian troops, under the command of Count Walmoden) at the passage of the Rhine near Arnheim. Walker there covered the retreat of the army with the artillery under his command. In doing so he received three wounds, one of them very severe. A complimentary allusion to his conduct appeared in the despatches of the time. The late King of Hanover conferred on Walker the Guelphic Order in 1837. General Walker served in various parts of the British dominions, and was actively employed during the Rebellion of 1798 in Ireland. The brave veteran was the second son of Major Nathaniel Walker, and the brother of the late distinguished General Sir George Walker, G.C.B., who filled many high military stations, and was created a Baronet in 1835. General Frederick Walker married Henrietta, only daughter and heiress of Captain Bagster, R.N.; and by her (who is deceased) he leaves issue one son, Lieut.-Colonel E. W. F. Walker, of the Scots Fusilier Guards, who is married to Jane, only daughter of the late Earl of Seafield; and four daughters, the youngest of whom is the wife of the Rev. Percy Monro. General Frederick Walker's nephew is the present Sir George Ferdinand Radzevill Walker, Bart., of the Coldstream Guards. In fact, for now more than a century nearly every man of this gallant family has been in the British or East India Company's army.

WILLS.—The will and two codicils of Lieutenant-General the Right Hon. Sir Henry Pottinger, Bart., G.C.B., one of her Majesty's Most Hon. Privy Counsellors, has just been proved in London, the personality within the province of Canterbury being sworn under £70,000. The will was executed in London, dated 17th July, 1855; the codicils at Malta, 21st Dec., 1855, and 26th Jan., 1856; the executor for India being Sylvester Douglas Birke, Esq., of the Madras Civil Service; the acting executor for England being Sir Frederick W. Pottinger, Bart., the son, the other executors having renounced. The service of plate presented to him by the merchants of Malta, the silver salver by the inhabitants of London, Manchester, and Liverpool, the gold armlet by his Excellency Keying, on his negotiating the Treaty of Nankin, and the clock and two vases by the ladies of Madras, are to be held as heirlooms with the baronetcy, and the possession of the mansion in Eaton-place. Sir Frederick is appointed residuary legatee of both real and personal estate. The will of the late Richard Lee, Esq., of Weymouth-street has been proved at Doctors'-commons as under £600,000. The bulk of this large property is settled by the testator upon the family of the late David Bevan, Esq. (who married a sister of testator), and their children after them.

CRUELITIES ON BOARD AMERICAN SHIPS.—A special report from the managing committee to the members of the Liverpool Society of Friends of Foreigners in Distress calls attention to the sufferings inflicted upon foreigners by the system in force at some of the ports of the United States for supplying the American mercantile marine with sailors. All sorts of contrivances, it appears, are resorted to at New York to obtain seamen for the American packet-ships. For instance, the New York shipping agents advertise, in English and in German, for "young men, who need not have been at sea before, to work as deck labourers at fixed wages." Under this pretext they are decoyed on board, and when once there they are retained by force. Others engage of their own accord as ordinary seamen, cooks, carpenters, &c., but are alike deceived; others again are enticed into public-houses, made drunk, and thus betrayed on board. It is on record that many have been offered work on board a steamer in the river, or to unload ships, and are thus prevailed upon to step into a small boat to be carried on board, which leaves them as soon as they are put on the deck of the ship, where they are retained forcibly. Among the applicants for relief there have been cooper, carpenters, cooks, waiters, clerks, and surgeons, who have been carried off in this nefarious way. Very soon after they are on board they are robbed of most of their effects, and there is no redress to be obtained; their remonstrances are laughed at or answered by ill-treatment, and the same means are employed to force them to go aloft and to do all that able seamen are expected to do.

It is stated that, out of 110 article clerks who attended for examination as attorneys, as many as 30 were sent back.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

REDUCTIONS on an extensive scale are ordered to be put into execution in the Government Departments at Woolwich at the end of the present financial year. In addition to the dismissal of the various clerks engaged as extras during the late stress of work, the services of the whole of the temporary clerks, a number of whom have been always attached to the establishment, are ordered to be dispensed with. With a desire of corresponding with the rigid instructions of economy which have been issued, about 2000 artisans and labourers are likewise to be discharged at the end of March—namely, 1000 from the Royal Laboratory, 500 from the Carriage Department, and about 500 from the Storekeeper's and the Gun Factory Departments. Reports are current to the effect that the majority of the Artillery officers employed in superintending the departments of Woolwich Arsenal are to be superseded by civilians experienced in the duties of the departments; the services of the military officers having been demanded by the Commander-in-Chief. Other important changes are likewise to be made in the Store branch of the War Department, which will add greatly to the efficiency of the establishment. Many of those who are advanced in life are to be allowed to retire on the superannuation list.

THE *Northfleet* freight-ship, of 1200 tons burden, arrived at Woolwich on Saturday last, and commenced shipping a heavy cargo of 13-inch mortars, battering guns, shot, shell, ammunition, artillery wagons, and other war stores for China. The freight-ships *Hymard* and *Menagan*, in the London Docks, are likewise chartered for the same purpose.

RECRUITING for the several infantry regiments having been for the present suspended, it has been determined that those corps on the Indian establishment in want of men to complete their strength shall be augmented from regiments which are above their prescribed establishment. A number of men belonging to various infantry regiments at Aldershot have volunteered for the 35th, 70th, and 84th Regiments, and will proceed to Chatham to join the dépôts of those corps at that garrison.

It is reported that the *Nimrod*, 6, is to be commissioned and proceed to China, to relieve the *Barraclouta*, 6.

THE *Renown*, 91, screw-steamer, having been completed at Chatham Dockyard, preparations are being made for launching her, which event is expected to take place during the ensuing month.

A LIFE-BOAT intended for presentation by Government to the Government of Chili, in consideration of succour rendered by the Chilians to British mariners in distress, is lying on the boathouse wharf at Woolwich, awaiting an opportunity for conveyance to her destination.

A GREAT deal of activity prevails among the troops at Chatham garrison, where there are at present about 500 men, belonging to the various branches of the service, daily undergoing a course of rifle instruction. As the season is approaching when nearly 2000 young soldiers will leave Chatham to join the head-quarters of their respective regiments in India, great pains are being taken to have each man instructed in the use of the Enfield rifle previously to his landing in that country.

THE Admiralty yacht *Vivid* has been placed gratuitously by Government at the disposal of the Royal Mail Packet Company for three months, to run between Dover and the Continental ports.

THE WEATHER.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE CAMBRIDGE OBSERVATORY, FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEB. 11, 1857.

Day.	Barometer at 9 A.M. at level of the sea corrected and reduced.	Atmospheric Thermometer.	Highest Temperature.	Lowest Temperature.	Mean.	Dry Bulb at 9 A.M.	Wet Bulb at 9 A.M.	Direction of Wind.	Amount of Cloud. (0-10)	Rain in Inches.
Feb. 5	30.156	29.6	36.2	21.4	28.3	30.3	29.5	S.	10	0.012
" 6	29.891	38.3	44.5	28.5	36.5	38.0	38.0	S.	10	0.000
" 7	29.790	36.8	43.4	31.1	37.3	39.8	38.5	S.W.	10	0.013
" 8	29.696	36.4	43.8	32.1	37.9	39.1	38.5	S.	10	0.051
" 9	29.645	37.4	44.6	32.4	38.5	39.3	37.4	S.	6	0.000
" 10	29.609	38.6	48.6	35.4	42.0	40.4	39.6	S.	2	0.036
" 11	29.824	39.3	48.8	31.9	40.4	41.3	40.2	S.W.	0	0.000
Means	29.814	38.6	44.3	30.4	37.3	38.3	37.4			0.112

The range of temperature during the week was 27.4°.

A little drizzling rain fell on the night of the 5th and on the afternoon of the 8th, and it was showery on the morning of the 7th and afternoon of the 10th. The thaw was proceeding rapidly during the day and night of the 5th, and the snow had altogether disappeared by the following day.

A fine halo was visible round the moon at 9h. 20m. p.m. of February 4; the stars Aldebaran and Capella were just situated within its interior border. A faint halo was likewise perceptible at 8 p.m. of the 10th.

The sky remains considerably overcast, but was partly clear on the days of the 9th, 10th, and 11th, and on the nights of the 6th and 10th. The wind has been blowing freshly since Feb. 7.

J. BREEN.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE KEW OBSERVATORY OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

Lat. 51° 28' 6" N.; Long. 0° 18' 47" W.; Height above sea 34 feet.

DAY.	DAILY MEANS OF					THERMOMETER.		WIND.	RAIN in 24 hours. Read at 9 A.M.
	Barometer Corrected.	Temperature of the Air.	Dew Point.	Relative Humidity.	Amount of Cloud.	Minimum at 10 A.M.	Maximum at 10 P.M.		
Feb. 4	30.223	28.2	25.4	90	4	26.9	33.3	N.N.W.	179
" 5	30.108	32.4	28.6	87	10	21.3	42.1	S.W.	175
" 6	29.907	42.9	41.1	94	10	30.5	46.8	S.W.	238
" 7	29.787	41.7	37.3	86	10	41.8	43.8	S.S.W.	398
" 8	29.684	40.5	37.3	89	10	37.4	44.6	S.	339
" 9	29.570	42.5	34.6	76	8	38.5	46.1	S.S.E.	491
" 10	29.718	43.6	39.6	87	6	39.1	48.8	S.S.W.	372

The daily means are obtained from observations made at 6h. and 10h. a.m., and 2h., 6h., and 10h. p.m., on each day, except Sunday, when the first observation is omitted. The corrections for diurnal variation are taken from the Tables of Mr. Glaisher. The "Dew-point" and "Relative Humidity" are calculated from observations of the dry and wet bulb thermometers, by Dr. Apjohn's Formula and Dalton's Tables of the Tension of Vapour. The movement of the wind is given by a self-recording Robinson's Anemometer, the amount stated for each day being that registered from midnight to midnight.

THE SNOWSTORM IN THE UNITED STATES.—The weather continues excessively cold, and everything is resuming the intensely Polar condition from which we thought we had escaped. With the glass four degrees below zero, even sleighing, at least in the city, is not a pleasure, and for the last two days the brilliancy of the first dash into it has been departing. It has taken the business-like appearance of a necessity. The severe cold has preserved the snow, but following, as it did, a partial thaw on the 22nd, it has coated everything with ice, and walking is attended with peril to the limbs, or requires so much caution that it is impossible to move rapidly enough to keep the blood from congelation. The railways have begun to run again, though very irregularly. The first train from Washington since the 18th came in last night, having been four days and nights achieving 240 miles. Travellers who left any city or a distant journey on the evening of the severe Sunday (the 18th) were everywhere caught, and, as they now turn up at intervals at the points of arrival, publish dismal accounts of their sufferings in drifts and cuttings, in which they were snowed up for twenty-four hours at a time, depending on forays in the vicinity for food and on the railroad fences for fire. The storm threw all the mercantile machinery of the city out of gear; none of the distant mails for the steamer to Europe of the 21st came in; draughts, bills, and advices were missing; and the telegraphs were hard at work, setting the confusion right as well as it could be done.—*Letter from New York, Jan. 24.*

AN ARCHBISHOP IN A FIX.—A funny story has found its way to Paris of the way in which even Archbishops may be embarrassed by the amplitude of the female fashions of the day. A letter from Milan says that the Archbishop of Milan, meeting the Empress of Austria on the staircase of the Duomo, by some unlucky accident became entangled in her Majesty's drapery as to be extricated only by calling away some of the attendant folds, to the immense diversion of the young and august victim, whose smiles, at last lapsing into downright laughter, increased the embarrassment of the venerable prelate.

POISONING BY MISTAKE.—A case of poisoning, by mistake in preparing a prescription has occurred at Baltimore, but with an additional and very singular tragical result. The prescription was for a child, which it killed instantly. The physician took the remainder of the medicine to the druggist, and told him he had made a dreadful error. The druggist persisted he had not, and was so confident in his accuracy that he swallowed a portion of the mixture himself. It was a fatal confidence; his drugs were quick; in five minutes he was a dead apothecary. On analysis it appeared he had mixed a preparation of prussic acid strong enough to kill fifty men.—*Letter from New York.*



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, FULHAM.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, AT FULHAM.

THIS handsome edifice was erected in 1848, from the designs of the late A. W. Pugin; and the steeple (of comparatively recent erection) may be considered one of the best works of that lamented architect. The edifice, of Kentish rag and Bath stone, was built at the sole expense of Mrs. Elizabeth Bowden, mainly with the object of providing a fitting place of worship for the poor Roman Catholics labouring in the large market-gardens of the district, numbering nearly 2000 souls. There is no endowment, but the seats of this church are entirely free, and the attendance is very numerous.

The high altar is richly carved with an enthroned figure of the patron Saint, attended by angels; and the altars and reredos of the Lady Chapel and the Chapel of St. John the Evangelist, together with the font, the aumbries, and the pulpit (of strikingly unique design), are all exquisitely carved in Caen stone from Mr. Pugin's designs. The chancel is divided from the aisles by a traceried parvise, or side-screen, of oak, and from the nave by a low communion-rail, to be surmounted by a rood. The tower is 142 feet high to the top of the cross, and is intended to contain a good peal of bells, two of which (a fine tenor of 20 cwt. and a treble of 6 cwt.) are already hung.

Contiguous to the church, and surrounded by a large playground, are the schools, capable of holding 300 children; and a late report of her Majesty's Inspector of Schools speaks favourably of their organisation.

The church, with its spacious cemetery, schools, and rectory, seen amidst the semi-rustic labourers' cottages of Fulham fields, form a highly-picturesque group of buildings, creditable to the munificence of the foundress.

Here has been established a sick and burial guild, and a very efficient choir of poor boys educated on the spot; and here, during the late winter seasons, regular lectures on astronomy and sacred history, illustrated by dissolving diagrams and views, have been delivered gratuitously by the resident priest, and have been attended by crowds of the poor; so that (apart from doctrinal considerations) much practical good has been effected since the opening of the church and schools.

ALTAR-TOMB IN LEDBURY CHURCH.

THIS altar-tomb and group of sculpture have been executed by Mr. Thornycroft, and erected in the chancel of Ledbury Church, to the infant son of Mr. John Martin, M.P., of the Upper Hall, Ledbury.

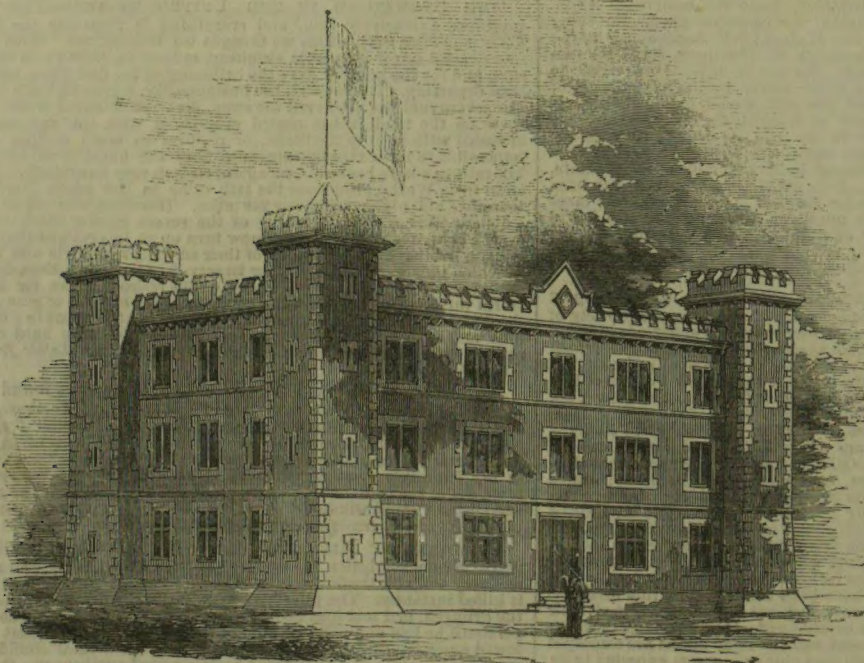
The child reposes in the placid sleep of infancy, its little hands trustfully crossed on its breast. Angels grouped at the head guard sleeper—one bearing the crown of immortality, waiting the appointed time. In this highly-meritorious work Mr. Thornycroft has revived the architectural arrangement of the Middle Ages, combined with sculpture of a higher order. It bears the following inscription:—

JOHN HAMILTON, the beloved infant son of John Martin and Maria Henrietta, his wife, born April 23rd, 1850, died March 18th, 1851.

"Them which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."

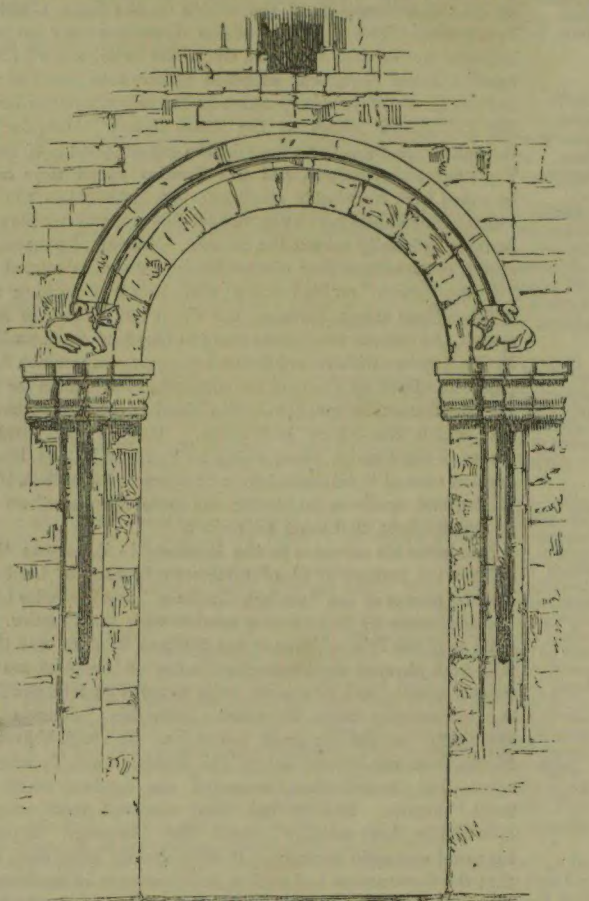
LANCASHIRE MILITIA DEPOT.

THIS building presents a favourable specimen of the superior accommodation provided of late for our militia force. It has been built as the dépôt for the 3rd Regiment of the Royal Lancashire Militia, at Preston, under the superintendence of Messrs. Cawley and Radford, of Manchester. The plan contains an armoury, store-room, room for clothing and accoutrements; orderly-room and office; guard-room and five prison cells; and dwelling for thirteen sergeants, to each of whom is allotted forty-two square yards of floor. The bastions flank the several sides of the



THE LANCASHIRE MILITIA NEW DEPOT, AT PRESTON.

ties, was to the majority, until very lately, an old and rather ugly structure attached to a nave and chancel, in that unsightly style which Cole, the antiquary, designated as "beautified in the true meaning of the term." Recently a handsome north aisle has been erected, which is appropriate and in good taste, and this addition has led to the removal of many of the hideous "beautified" windows. The corners of this tower—which consists of three stories, each story being smaller than the one beneath it—exhibit fine specimens of the "long and short work" so characteristic of these ancient edifices—a succession of long and short stones alternating. The original windows still remain in the upper story of the tower, and, from their singularity, are often



ANCIENT ARCH IN ST. BENEDICT'S CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE.

pointed out to strangers. On each side, in the middle of the wall, and resting on the square-edged string-course which divides the story from the larger story below it, is a double window, with semicircular arched heads, and divided by a balluster shaft; this shaft is encircled about the middle of its height by annulated mouldings, which serve to divide it into two parts, each of which exhibits the entasis, or swelling, found in other window shafts of coeval date, and forming one of the peculiar features of the style. The shaft thus described sustains a plain projecting square-edged impost, or abacus, of an oblong form, which appears to extend through the whole thickness of the wall. The double window arches are hewn out of a single block, and rest on the impost or abacus of the balluster shaft and the projecting abace of the window jambs, which latter are of ashlar. On each side of these double windows, but higher up, is a plain semicircular-headed window, with straight-sided jambs; and in the wall above each of these, but not disposed quite regularly, is a circular orifice or aperture formed in a square block of stone, the use or meaning of which is not very apparent. The tower has no staircase in the interior.

On entering the church we at first see nothing more than a plain



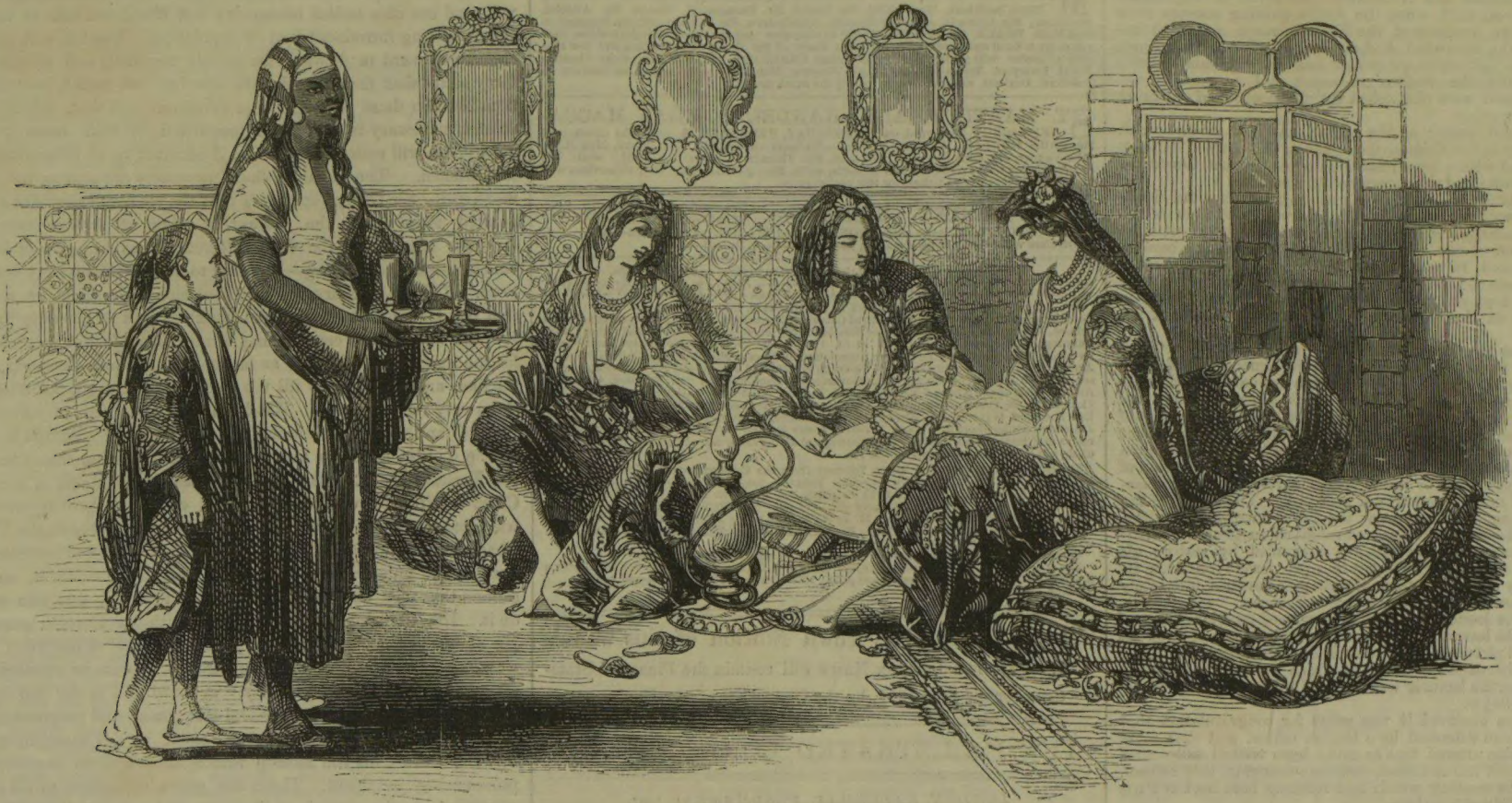
ALTAR-TOMB AND SCULPTURE IN LEDBURY CHURCH.

building, which can thus be easily defended by a few inmates. A spacious yard surrounds the edifice, and sheds are provided under which, in bad weather, the men are drilled.

ANCIENT ARCH IN ST. BENEDICT'S CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE.

THE chief point of interest about this venerable and time-worn church is the tower, of which the whole is Saxon, although a modern door, and, indeed, window over it, have been inserted. This tower, however interesting to those having sufficient architectural knowledge to appreciate its peculiari-

ties, was to the majority, until very lately, an old and rather ugly structure attached to a nave and chancel, in that unsightly style which Cole, the antiquary, designated as "beautified in the true meaning of the term." Recently a handsome north aisle has been erected, which is appropriate and in good taste, and this addition has led to the removal of many of the hideous "beautified" windows. The corners of this tower—which consists of three stories, each story being smaller than the one beneath it—exhibit fine specimens of the "long and short work" so characteristic of these ancient edifices—a succession of long and short stones alternating. The original windows still remain in the upper story of the tower, and, from their singularity, are often



ALGERINE WOMEN.

THE FRENCH OCCUPATION OF ALGERIA.

A VERY interesting lecture was delivered at the Literary and Scientific Institution of Frome, on the evening of the 23rd ult., by the Hon. Major Boyle, M.P., on "The French Occupation of Algeria." The chair was occupied by George Wood Sheppard, Esq. The attendance was large, and comprised an unusual number of the elite of the town.

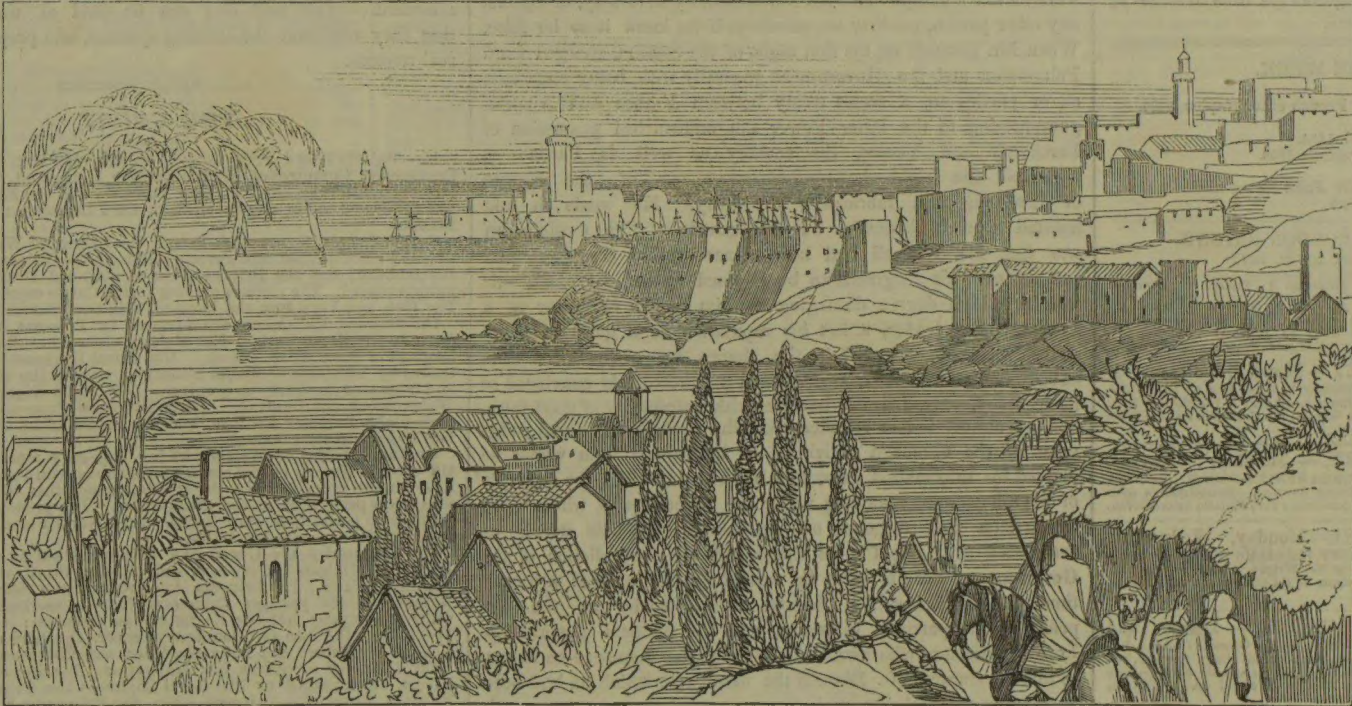
The Hon. Major Boyle, on coming forward, was greeted with cheers. He said that, in selecting a subject, he naturally desired to fix upon one that would enable him to do justice to that noble body of men, the French army, of whom he had formed a high opinion from his experience in the Crimea. He then proceeded to give a history of Algiers, now called Algeria. The origin of the quarrels by which France had gained Algeria, and thus obtained a large accession of territory bordering on her own, had been extremely simple, but the earlier proceedings of the French Government were frightfully cruel. He intended on that occasion to confine himself to the French occupation. The Moors, notwithstanding the severe lesson they had received from the bombardment in 1816, by Lord Exmouth, were still the

terror of the sea, a horde of pirates, to whom plunder was trade from their youth, and honour was unknown. The immediate cause of the dispute was a sum of £18,000, alleged to be due from the Bey, which not being forthcoming at the appointed time, he was waited on by

the foreign Ministers, and in the heat of his anger the Bey struck the French Consul with his hand. As an insult to a representative is always, and justly, regarded as a sign of contempt for the country represented, the French Minister of War determined on an expedition

by land and sea. On the 11th of June, 1830, a landing was effected with an army, than which there was never one in better condition. On the 4th of July the army attacked Algiers, and, aided by the fleet, brought to bear on the devoted city an immense force of artillery. A destructive explosion in the principal fort at length, after repeated overtures, induced the Bey to accept terms, which included the safety of all lives and of private property. The French had also the privilege of releasing from slavery a number of their own countrymen.

The lecturer then described the peculiarities of the country, and its adaptation for colonisation. It was, he said, one of the finest wheat-producing countries in the world, and near the coasts the scenery is very beautiful. The climate in the north is cold and bleak all the year round, while in the south precisely the reverse is the case. In the summer months, so great is the heat and so scarce is water, that vegetation is parched and dried up, only to revive with the



ALGIERS.



CAFÉ AND DIVAN, ALGIERS.

copious rains of October and November. No event of importance occurred till the year 1833, when the Arabs, gaining courage from the reduction of the numbers of the French troops, raised an insurrection under the renowned Abd-el-Kader. The lecturer gave a narrative of the extraordinary career and achievements of this veteran warrior, and the various successes and reverses of the French armies, which were dispatched for the purpose of subduing his infuriated followers.

The formation and career of the various African troops which figured prominently in the Crimea, the Zouaves, Chasseurs d'Afrique, Foreign Legion, and others, were related with much spirit, illustrated with coloured diagrams and characteristic anecdotes.

The remaining history of Algeria was a catalogue of wars and bloodshed, the many memorable exploits and disastrous encounters of the Arabs and the French the lecturer graphically related, ending with the barbarous suffocation of 800 men, women, and children in a cave in which they had taken refuge, and the surrender of Abd-el-Kader. By the unfaithfulness of Louis Philippe, the engagements with him, however, were not kept, and he was imprisoned for five years, when he was set at liberty on the accession of the present Emperor of the French.

The lecturer then gave an able review of the life and character of those two eminent French Generals, Marshal St. Arnaud and Marshal Pelissier, supplying many new facts and data derived from their recently-published letters. The condition of the Algerine colony was contrasted with our own colony in Australia, greatly to the advantage of the latter. Algeria contains 134,000 European inhabitants, of whom about two-thirds inhabit towns; and also about 10,000 military. The French farmer dislikes to remove, and this accounts for the poor condition of the agricultural interest. The towns present a very curious appearance, being divided into European and Arabian. The streets of the former are wide, clean, and well paved; the latter narrow, and dirty. After describing the civil, military, and religious customs and institutions of the inhabitants, the lecturer concluded by stating his conviction that, if the colony were not in a prosperous condition, its youth was the only cause, and that Algeria was destined ultimately to produce all the benefits of a great colony to France.

The interest of the lecture was greatly increased by a large map of Algeria, on which the lecturer pointed out the chief spots of interest, and a large coloured picture of modern Algiers—for which, as well as well as the many other excellent drawings which were exhibited in the course of the evening, the lecturer was indebted to the kindness of the Hon. Mrs. Richard Boyle.

The Chairman then observed it was cause for congratulation that such a lecture had been delivered by a British officer, and that there had not been a syllable uttered that he could have wished suppressed had the room been half full of French officers; being, in this respect, such a contrast to the meeting which had recently been held at Paris in the hotel of the Prince Napoleon.

The thanks of the meeting were then presented to the lecturer, and to the lady who had so greatly added to their entertainment by the views of places and persons.

The original sketches from which the drawings were executed were given to the lecturer by Lord Cranbourne, who was travelling in Algeria during the summer of 1856. We have engraved one of the Sketches.

We add two accompanying scenes of Algerine life from Sketches by a Correspondent.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, Feb. 15.—Sexagesima Sunday. French enter Naples, 1806.
MONDAY, 16.—Melancthon born, 1497.
TUESDAY, 17.—John Martin, painter, died, 1854.
WEDNESDAY, 18.—Emperor of Austria stabbed, 1853.
THURSDAY, 19.—Gallio born, 1564.
FRIDAY, 20.—John Howard died, 1790. Dr. John Moore died, 1802.
SATURDAY, 21.—Louis XVI. beheaded, 1793.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 21, 1857.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
5 50	6 15	6 35	6 55	7 15	7 35	7 55

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.—Monday, February 16, and during the week, the New and Successful Comedy, in Three Acts, of DOUBLE-FACED PEOPLE. After which a New Drama, in One Act, entitled A WICKED WIFE. Concluding with the Pantomime of the BABES in the WOOD; or, Harlequin and the Cruel Uncle.

ROYAL PRINCESS' THEATRE.—Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM. Saturday, The CORNICIAN BROTHERS. The Pantomime Every Evening. Monday's performance Overture to "Midsummer Night's Dream" will commence Five Minutes before Seven.

THEATRE ROYAL, ADELPHI.—Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, a New Drama, in which Mr. BARNEY WILLIAMS will appear, called BARNEY the BARON, "A Night at Notting-hill," by Mr. Wright, "Our Gal," and the Pantomime. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, "Customs of the Country," "A Night at Notting-hill," "Barney the Baron," and Pantomime.

ASTLEY'S ROYAL AMPHITHEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. WILLIAM COOKE. MONDAY, FEB. 16, the Operatic Drama called ROY ROY; with Mr. W. Cooke's Equestrian Illustrations and the original Music. Roy Roy, Mr. James Holloway. Also, the EQUESTRIAN SCENES in the ORIOLE, and Mr. J. R. Cooke's Bridge Act. To conclude with the Equestrian Comic Pantomime called PAUL PRY on HORSEBACK. Commence at Seven o'clock.

GREAT NATIONAL STANDARD THEATRE.—Shoreditch.—NEW DRAMA and the Grand Comic Pantomime at Half-price, with its great effects. Every Evening. The original General TOM THUMB will appear on FRIDAY and SATURDAY next. No advance in the prices.

MR. ALBERT SMITH'S MONT BLANC, BADEN, UP the RHINE, and PARIS, is NOW OPEN, EVERY EVENING (except Saturday), at Eight o'clock. Stalls, 2s.; Area, 2s.; Gallery, 1s. Stalls can be secured at the Box-office, EGYPTIAN HALL, Piccadilly, every day, between Eleven and Four, without any extra charge. The Morning Representations take place every Tuesday and Saturday, at Three o'clock.

MISS P. HORTON'S POPULAR ILLUSTRATIONS.—Mr. and Mrs. GERMAN REED, will give their Entertainment at the GALLERY of ILLUSTRATION, 14, Regent-street, with an entirely new part—Our Wards, Governors, and the Enraged Musician—introducing English, French, and Italian Songs, every Evening (except Saturday) at Eight o'clock. A MORNING PERFORMANCE every Saturday at Three. Admission 2s. and 1s.; Stalls, 3s. May be secured at the Gallery; and at Cramer, Beale, and Co.'s, 201, Regent-street.

SALLE VOUSDEN, 315, Oxford-street (ten doors from Regent-circus).—VALENTINE VOUSDEN, the great Polynesian Mimic, in his Original Entertainment, the UNITY of NATIONS. Every Evening (except Saturday), at Eight o'clock. Seats, 3s., 2s., and 1s., may be secured at Mitchell's Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street. A Day Performance on Saturday, at Three o'clock.

MR. and Mrs. HENRI DRAYTON will give their New Musical Entertainment, entitled ILLUSTRATED PROVERBS, at the REGENT'S GALLERY, Quadrant, every Evening. Admission, 1s., 2s., and 3s. Commencing at Eight. A Morning Performance every Saturday, at Three o'clock. Stalls only at Cadby's, 42, New Bond-street.

THE SISTERS SOPHIA and ANNIE, in their Original Entertainment, entitled SKETCHES from NATURE, will appear on MONDAY, FEB. 16, and every Evening during the Week, at the CONCERT HALL, Lord Nelson-street, LIVERPOOL.

GENERAL TOM THUMB has scarcely undergone the slightest change, in features, voice, or size, since he appeared three times before her Majesty, at Buckingham Palace, fifteen years ago, and exhibited before 600,000 of the nobility and gentry in London. Hundreds who knew him intimately at that time recognise him daily. His intellect has vastly expanded. His Songs, Dances, Statues, Imitations, &c., in numerous Costumes, are peculiarly enchanting. His miniature equipage promenade the streets. The Costly Presents received from her Majesty and the Crowned Heads of Europe are exhibited. **THEATRE ROYAL, ADELPHI, MONDAY, FEB. 16, and every Evening, in the beautiful PRINCE of WALES BAZAAR, 209, Regent-street, near Conduit-street. HOURS CHANGED.**—From 12½ to 2; 2½ to 5; and 7½ to 9 o'clock. Doors open half an hour in advance.—Admission, 1s., regardless of age. Stalls, 2s.; Children half-price.

CANTERBURY HALL, Westminster-road.—The above Music-hall is Open Every Evening for Musical Entertainments, supported by Artists of Celebrity.—Commence at 7 o'clock precisely.—Suppers, &c., until Twelve.

GOMPERTZ'S PANORAMA of the LATE WAR will continue to be exhibited at the Music Hall, SHREWSBURY, until Saturday, 21st inst.; after which it will visit Oswestry, Stafford, Nottingham, and Grantham.

MILLINERS' and DRESSMAKERS' PROVIDENT and BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION, 32, Sackville-street.—THE SEVENTH ANNUAL ENTERTAINMENT to the Members and Friends of the above Institution will take place at the HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS, on THURSDAY Evening, February 19, to commence at Eight o'clock precisely. Vocalists: Mdlle. Lemmens (late Miss Sherrington), Miss Messent, Miss Lascelles, and Miss Dolby; Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Wells, and Signor Belletti. The Members of the Orpheus Glee Union will also sing some of their most admired glee, part songs, &c. Instrumentalists: Pianoforte, Mr. Lindsay Sloper and Mr. Harold Thomas. Violin, M. Bezeth. Violoncello, Mr. H. Chapp. Conductors, Messrs. Harold Thomas and W. G. Curwin. The names of other distinguished artists will be shortly announced. Reserved Seats, 7s. each, which may be secured by early application to the Committee; Mr. R. Olivier, 91, Old Bond-street; and of the Hon. Secretary, Mr. WILLIAM SHUTE, 22, Sackville-street.

MADAME GRISI and Madame GASSIER, Madame Amadei, Mdlle. Sedlatz, Sig. Volpini, Sig. Lorini, Mr. Tennant, M. Gassier, Sig. Albicini, Sig. Kinn, Sig. Gregorio, and Herr Fornes. Conductors, Sig. Li Calci and Sig. Stanzeri. **CRAMER, BEALE, and CHAPPELL** beg to announce that the above eminent artists, supported by a Band and Chorus selected from those of the Royal Italian Opera and Her Majesty's Theatre, will perform in Opera during FEBRUARY and MARCH, at the Theatres Royal, Liverpool, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester; and appear in Concerts at Bradford, Durham, and Edinburgh, during the same months.

ST. MARTIN'S HALL.—HANDEL'S JUDAS MACCABEUS will be performed on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, under the direction of Mr. JOHN HULLAH. Principal Vocalists—Madame Rudersdorf, Miss Banks, Miss Moss, Miss Palmer, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Thomas. Tickets, 1s., 2s., 6d.; stalls, 3s.; or subscription to the series of eight concerts, stalls, 30s.; galleries, 15s. New subscribers will be entitled to three extra tickets for this performance.

MR. BRINLEY RICHARDS' GRAND EVENING CONCERT will take place MONDAY, 2nd MARCH, at EXETER-HALL. Full Particulars will be duly announced.—4, Torrington-street, Russell-square.

Now ready, and may be had through all Booksellers and News-agents, **VOLUME XXIX. of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS,** from JULY to DECEMBER, 1856.

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Office, 108, Strand.

THE BUDGET.—The Town Edition of this week's

ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS will contain the Financial Statement for the year 1857, by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1857.

It is a maxim of Party Government that it is a good and a wise thing to damage a political opponent. But it is also, or ought to be, a maxim that it is a bad and an unwise thing to accuse a political opponent of that which is not. Of course no gentleman would make a charge against a Parliamentary adversary, or against any other person, publicly or privately, if he knew it to be false. When Mr. Disraeli, on the first night of the Session, charged Lord Palmerston and the Government generally with being cognizant of, or parties to, a secret treaty between France and Austria, guaranteeing to the latter Power the undisturbed possession of Lombardy and Venice, the country as well as Parliament acquitted the right honourable gentleman of the charge of inventing and fabricating the story. He made it and insisted upon it, honestly, but maliciously. The explanation was that Mr. Disraeli had been somewhat too credulous, and had allowed his judgment to be imposed upon. Although this was in a high degree damaging to him in his character of a Parliamentary leader, it left his reputation as a gentleman unscathed. Nobody believed in the charge, but at the same time nobody believed that Mr. Disraeli was not thoroughly convinced of its accuracy. Mr. Disraeli, however, with a simplicity of good faith, and an almost heroic reliance upon the probity and sound judgment of the unnamed individual or individuals from whom he derived his information, reiterated on Tuesday night the accuracy of his allegation. Smarting under the ridicule with which Lord Palmerston had disposed of the charge—ridicule which he designated as "ribald"—he challenged the contradiction of the Government. He got what he wanted; and succeeded a second time in vindicating his honour and veracity at the expense of his personal discretion and his political generalship. Lord Palmerston, who would not do him the favour to be angry, as invited, showed Mr. Disraeli the manner in which he had been imposed upon, and the real dimensions of the great "mare's nest" which he had discovered; and satisfied Parliament, and the country at the same time, that the policy of the Government towards Austria, Italy, and France had been fair, open, honest, and above board in every particular. Mr. Disraeli saw—for he says he saw—a document which he imagined to be a secret treaty. But the plain tale told by Lord Palmerston proved that the document was not a treaty, but the draught of a proposed military convention, which was intended to meet certain circumstances which had never occurred, and which consequently had never been signed. When, at the end of the year 1854, it was hoped that Austria would have had sufficient dignity and courage to unite with Great Britain and France against the Czar, Austria very naturally inquired of France what course would be pursued towards her in Italy if Russia, as was probable, should endeavour to stir up revolution in Lombardy and Piedmont. Had Austria joined the Anglo-French and Sardinian alliance at that time, England, France, and Sardinia would, as a matter of course, have united to foil any Russian machinations tending to the overthrow of Austrian dominion in her most vulnerable provinces; but, as Austria never carried her good intentions into effect, the draught of the convention remained a draught—a mere piece of waste paper, of no more historical value or legal efficiency than a leader in a newspaper three years old, or a speech delivered by Mr. Disraeli in a bygone Session. Thus failed the great coup which the chief of the Opposition aimed and reaimed at the jauntty Achilles of the Ministry. For a man in his eminent position, and with his unquestionable abilities, Mr. Disraeli is by far too liable to make mistakes to be considered a good general. Were he one of the rank and file of his party such mistakes would be of no particular consequence; but, coming from the Commander-in-Chief, they are fatal to his influence and his efficiency. It is not enough for a Parliamentary leader to be honest and eloquent. Such qualities are great and essential; but, if not associated with prudence, skill, and foresight, they may fit a man to serve, but will not qualify him to command, a great party.

GOVERNMENTAL measures have been introduced into both Houses of Parliament. Sir George Grey has brought in a bill the main feature of which is that it admits that the principle of transportation of criminals is a salutary one, and that the practice cannot be dispensed with. Its own operation is limited. Western Australia is

willing, and indeed desirous, to avail itself of convict labour, if we will send out able-bodied labourers; but it will not hear of female convicts being introduced into its population. The bill will enable the Government to forward the supply required, and Sir George Grey states that the Irish female convicts are much less objectionable than those of England or Scotland; and that, it being absolutely necessary to forward a proportion of both sexes to the colony, he will endeavour to meet Australian views by sending out Irishwomen. The penal-servitude sentences are also to be made more real. Sir George considers that the country entertains exaggerated ideas as to the amount of crime at present rampant. Another bill which the Home Secretary has brought in is for enabling—not compelling—localities to found reformatory institutions. This is, of course, an excellent step. It could be wished that the Home Secretary would make it part of his duty to discourage and rebuke country magistrates who sanction prosecutions for the most trivial offences, as turnip-pulling, stone-throwing, and the like, and who thereby fill the gaols with young candidates for these very reformatories. We have had too much of "Justices' justice," and require a little more of the justice of common sense.

The Lord Chancellor has brought in a bill upon the subject of the Ecclesiastical Courts. He proposes to establish a Queen's Court of Probate, with thirty district courts for proving country wills, but all disputed cases to come to London. One of the Vice-Chancellors he would make the head of the Court, and increase the number of proctors, retaining their exclusive privileges, on the ground that they do their business better than any one else could do it. His Lordship also deals mildly with the Divorce question. He adopts the most important parts of the bill of last year. A woman who has been deserted for three years is to be entitled to a divorce and to her own property. A third bill is for the better punishment of heretical or immoral clergymen, and proposes to try an offender of that class before a mixed jury of clergymen and laymen, leaving to the Bishop who summons them the duty of pronouncing judgment. There are grave objections to all three measures, on the ground of their incompleteness. The Divorce Bill is the weakest, and especially for the grave if not fatal, defect of the non-abolition of the disgusting action for damages. Lord Brougham also complained, most justly, that the hardship of refusing a woman the right to be heard in a case involving the happiness or misery of her whole subsequent life was not to be remedied. The best that can be said of these measures is that they condemn the existing systems, and prepare the way for real reforms.

THE COURT.

Her Majesty held a Privy Council on Saturday last, at which Viscount Castlereagh, Comptroller of the Queen's Household, was sworn of her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council; and the Earl of Yarborough was confirmed in his appointment as Lord Lieutenant of the county of Lincoln.

On Sunday the Queen and Prince, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Princess Alice, and Princess Helena, the Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, and the Princess Feodore attended Divine service in the private chapel. The visitors staying in the Castle were also at the service. The Hon. and Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor officiated.

On Monday the Queen, accompanied by Princess Alice, walked and drove in the Home Park. Her Majesty visited her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, at Frogmore. His Royal Highness Prince Albert, attended by Lieutenant-Colonel Ponsonby, went to the Wellington College, and inspected the works in progress. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales went out hunting. Their Serene Highnesses the Princesses of Hohenlohe, Princess Feodore, and the Prince of Leiningen dined with her Majesty in the evening.

On Tuesday (the anniversary of her Majesty's marriage) the band of the 1st Life Guards played several favourite airs on the terrace at an early hour in the morning. In the evening a selection of choral and other music was performed in the music-room. The principal vocal and instrumental performers were Mdlle. Clara Novello and Mdlle. Bassano, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Weiss.

On Wednesday the Queen and Prince walked in the Home Park His Royal Highness afterwards rode on horseback, accompanied by the Prince of Wales. The Princess Alice rode in the riding-house. Prince Arthur and the younger Princesses took a carriage drive. All the visiting company left the Castle in the forenoon; viz., the Duke of Wellington, the Earl and Countess Spencer, the Earl of Westmoreland, General Sir Robert and Lady Gardiner, and Col. Francis Seymour, C.B.

On Thursday afternoon her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert, accompanied by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, the Princess Alice, the Princesses Helena and Louisa, Prince Arthur, and Prince Leopold, left Windsor Castle, and travelled by special train on the Great Western Railway to Paddington, and proceeded in several of her Majesty's carriages, escorted by a detachment of the 3rd Light Dragoon Guards, to Buckingham Palace. In attendance on the Royal party were Lady Churchill, the Duchess of Wellington, Lord Camoys, General Sir Edward Bowater, the Master of the Household, Mr. Gibbs, &c. The directors and various officials received her Majesty at the railway. On arriving at Buckingham Palace the Royal party were received by Earl Spencer, the Marquis of Breadalbane, Lord Ernest Bruce, and others of her Majesty's household. Her Majesty will, it is believed, remain in London about three weeks, returning to Windsor some days antecedent to an approaching interesting event.

Lady Churchill has succeeded the Duchess of Wellington as Lady in Waiting to her Majesty. Lord Camoys and General Sir Edward Bowater have succeeded Lord Dufferin and the Hon. Mortimer Sackville West as the Lord and Groom in Waiting.

The Prince de la Moskowa, accompanied by the Baron de Vidil, arrived at the residence of the French Embassy, on Monday, from Paris. The Prince is father of the Countess de Persigny.

Lord and Lady Colville have arrived in town. The noble Lord and her Ladyship have been absent from England some months on a yachting excursion in the Mediterranean.

Baron Alphonse Rothschild has arrived at Claridge's Hotel from Paris. The marriage of the Baron with his cousin, Miss Rothschild, daughter of Baron Lionel de Rothschild, will take place at Gunnersbury on the 4th proximo.

Sir Charles Wood gave a dinner to the Cabinet Ministers on Wednesday evening, at his residence in the Admiralty. All the Ministers were present except Lord Panmure.

THE NEUFCHÂTEL CONFERENCE.—The *Presse* gives as a piece of news the fact that Paris is definitively fixed upon as the place where the Neufchâtel Conference is to be held; but, although the Plenipotentiaries may possibly meet towards the end of the month, it thinks that the day of meeting is not yet fixed.

THE ARMY AND NAVY ESTIMATES.—The sum asked for the expenses of the Navy for the present financial year amounts to only £3,109,168, in place of £15,812,127, the estimate for last year. The reductions effected in the Army and Ordnance Estimates are not less striking. The total sum demanded for the year is little more than £11,000,000. The Navy and Ordnance Estimate for 1856-7 was no less than £34,998,504, and even the revised estimate when the war closed was £20,249,084. Thus, even compared with the past year of peace, the reduction is no less than £9,000,000. The cost of our military and naval defences is, therefore, reduced from £36,547,239 for 1856-7 to little more than £19,000,000 for 1857-8. The saving effected is, consequently, upwards of £17,000,000, a million more than the sum produced by the whole Income-tax of 16d. in the pound.

SPEAK OUT.—The following notice has been printed with the House of Commons' votes:—"To ensure accuracy and facility in taking divisions it is requested that every member, whether personally known to the division clerks or not, will give his name, distinctly and audibly, as he passes the division desk."

We regret to announce the premature demise of the Rev. Robert T. Willerforce, late Archdeacon of the East Riding of Yorkshire, which took place on the 3rd inst., at Albano, in the vicinity of Rome, from an attack of gastric fever.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

(Continued from page 144.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

The Right Hon. W. Cowper took the oath and his seat on re-election for Hertford, consequent upon his appointment to the new office of Minister of Education.

MERSEY CONSERVANCY AND DOCK BILL.—The second reading of the Mersey Conservancy and Dock Bill was opposed by Mr. HORSFALL, on the ground that it would greatly interfere with the Dock Trust of Liverpool, which was a public trust, managed gratuitously by individuals selected from the leading merchants and shipowners of the town.—Mr. M. GIBSON warmly supported the bill, and maintained that the measure was intended to give effect to the recommendations of the Admiralty, the Tidal Commission, a Select Committee of the House of Commons, and the requirements of an Act of Parliament for consolidating the Liverpool and Birkenhead Docks into one great trust.—Mr. L. DAVIES reminded the House that the question in dispute involved a sum of £13,000,000, and affected the commerce of the whole civilised world. This was surely a question for the careful consideration of a Select Committee.—After a few words from Mr. Vernon, Mr. Spooner, and Mr. J. Ewart, Mr. Horsfall withdrew his opposition, and the bill was read a second time.

JUDGMENTS EXECUTION BILL.

The second reading of the Judgments Execution Bill was opposed by Colonel FRENCH, who objected to the proposal for giving judgments issued by an English court validity in Ireland. He moved as an amendment that the bill should be read a second time that day six months.

Mr. M'MAHON and Mr. BLAND also condemned the bill, of which Mr. HADFIELD strongly approved.

Mr. GEORGE and Mr. HUGHES opposed the bill.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND supported it, believing that it would remove an anomaly which had hitherto been a disgrace and blot upon the legal system of the United Kingdom.

After some remarks in opposition to the measure from Mr. NAPIER, and in its defence from the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, the House divided.—For the second reading, 56; against it, 46: majority, 10.

The bill was then read a second time, and ordered to be committed on Wednesday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

GREECE.—The Earl of CLARENDON, in reply to the Marquis of Clanricarde, said it was quite true that orders had been given for the evacuation of Greece by the English and French troops, as the motive which induced the Western Powers to send those troops into the Piræus no longer existed. The Greek Government had offered to pay a small annual instalment of the loan, and had laid before the three protecting Powers a statement of its finances. In consequence of the Greek Government challenging an inquiry into the truth of this statement, it was agreed upon that a commission should be appointed, to be composed of the representatives of the protecting Powers—France, England, and Russia—to make such investigation, and, with the concurrence of the Greek Government, which had acted in the most frank and cordial manner in the business, to advise such financial reforms in the country as were calculated to effect the most advantageous results. As the commission had not as yet sat, he thought it would be premature to lay the papers connected with the subject before the House.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

NEW MEMBERS.—Sir W. Codrington took the oath and his seat for Greenwich; Mr. Weguelin, for Southampton; and Mr. Kennard for Newport (Isle of Wight).

THE NELSON MONUMENT.—Sir B. HALL, in reply to Mr. Warren, said it would cost about £4000 to complete the Nelson Monument in Trafalgar-square; but he was not prepared at present to ask the House to vote that sum.

THE BRITISH BANK.—The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, in reply to Mr. Butler, said he intended to introduce a bill upon the subject of the winding-up of Bankrupt Companies, so as to prevent conflicts of authority between the Court of Bankruptcy and the Court of Chancery, as had occurred in the case of the Royal British Bank.

OUR RELATIONS WITH CHINA.—Mr. CORDEN gave notice of his intention, on an early day, to move for a Select Committee to inquire into the nature of our commercial relations with China.

SIR R. PEEL'S SALTLEY SPEECH.

Mr. A. STAFFORD inquired of Sir R. Peel whether the report of a speech delivered by him at Saltley, near Birmingham, on the 7th January, and reported in the *Times* newspaper, was correct; and particularly those portions of it which referred to Count de Morny, the Grand Duke Constantine, and the Prince de Ligne?

Sir R. PEEL said he did not think that that House was the tribunal by which he should be called to account for any expressions which he might have used upon matters altogether unconnected with the business of the House; but he was quite willing to accept the challenge of the hon. member, and to give every information upon the important subject referred to. He was not in the habit of reading reports of his own speeches after they were delivered; and it was very difficult for him at that distance of time to pledge himself to the accuracy of every particular word, inasmuch as he had spoken for an hour and a half without making use of a note of any kind. Such, however, was the justice and ability of the gentlemen generally reporting for the public journals, that he was quite prepared to accept the responsibility of the speech, with the exception of one particular phrase of a personal nature which was put into his mouth, but which he certainly did not use. He protested against the construction which had been put upon some of his language, as it was very far from his nature to inflict pain upon any one. With regard to the Count de Morny, he believed he did say that the Count was one of the greatest speculators in Europe; but he had no intention of saying a single word against his character (laughter). With regard to the Grand Duke Constantine, he certainly did say that his Imperial Highness did not impress him with the feeling of his being a frank and openhearted sailor. The House must recollect that those words "frank and openhearted" had been first used by a gallant Admiral who sat in that House (laughter). As regarded the Prince de Ligne, he certainly did say in rather a familiar tone that he was "stiff and starched" (Renewed laughter), but not with a view to pain him; and it seemed to him (Sir R. Peel) that he had not used a single word which might not have fallen from the lips of the most strait-laced member of that House. He did not believe that he had erred; but if he had, he begged to offer the most ample expressions of regret for having done so (Cheers).

THE SECRET TREATY.

Lord PALMERSTON wished to correct a statement made by him on Tuesday night in reply to the right hon. member for Bucks (Mr. Disraeli). He said that the convention between France and Austria had never been signed, and he believed so at the time. But, upon further inquiry, he ascertained that it had been signed (Opposition cheers). Being, however, in the nature of a military convention, and having for its object the regulation of military matters between the Austrian and the French troops, on the contingency arising of Austria joining in active operations against Russia, and Austria never having done so, the convention became a dead letter, and never had any force whatever (Hear).

Mr. DISRAELI, in an elevated tone of voice, recapitulated in substance the statements made by him on Tuesday night, and the counter-statements made by the noble Lord. He (Mr. Disraeli) adhered to those statements, that there really existed a secret treaty between France and Austria guaranteeing to the latter her Italian possessions, that that treaty had been extensively acted upon, and that all the acts under that treaty were known to the British Government. The noble Lord was now willing to admit that there was a document in existence, and also that it had been signed, but in the shape of a convention and not of a treaty. After those two admissions of the noble Lord, he (Mr. Disraeli) was there to say that it was not a convention, but a treaty; that it was not only signed, but extensively acted upon; that, to the best of his belief, it contained upon its surface no limitation; and that the character given of it by the noble Lord the other night was entirely incorrect (Cheers from the Opposition benches).

Lord PALMERSTON again rose and characterised the speech of the right hon. gentleman as an ingenious attempt to cover an ignominious retreat from his original position. The House must recollect that the right hon. gentleman had said the other night that there was not only a secret treaty between Austria and France guaranteeing to the former her Italian possessions, but he added, that it had been contracted at the instigation of the Government of this country. He denied the whole of that statement the other night, and he now denied it again, for, to the best of his knowledge and belief, no such treaty ever existed or was ever concluded (Cheers). He had said, too, the other night that the right hon. gentleman had been misled; and, notwithstanding the vapouring manner in which the right hon. gentleman had persisted in his assertions, he (Lord Palmerston) repeated now that, to the best of his belief, the right honourable gentleman had been grossly imposed upon. The convention was certainly communicated to her Majesty's Government, but it was not signed by its advice. The only point submitted to it was whether France was bound in point of honour to make such an arrangement as would secure the Austrian possessions, in case they were attacked by Russia, in the event of Austria herself undertaking active operations against that Power (Cheers).

AFFAIRS OF PUBLIC JUSTICE.—Mr. NAPIER moved that an humble Address be presented to her Majesty praying that she will be pleased to take into consideration, as an urgent measure of Administrative Reform, the formation of a separate and responsible department for the affairs of Public Justice.—Mr. COLLIER seconded the motion.—After some discussion, which was wholly confined to the legal members of the House, the motion was agreed to.

Sir W. CLAY obtained leave to introduce a Bill for the Abolition of Church-rates.

Capt. L. VERNON moved for copies of all correspondence relating to the removal of General Pollock, G.C.B., from the direction of the Hon. East India Company.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

THE SOULAGES COLLECTION OF ITALIAN ART.—After having been submitted to public criticism, at Marlborough House, since the 7th of December, the exhibition of this collection was closed on Saturday last. During this period it has been visited by upwards of 48,000 persons, which is just double the usual number attending at this season. Among these visitors as many as 5126 persons have paid for admission, being ninefold the average number paying. We understand that the offer of sale has been made to the Government for £13,620, with the recommendation that, if bought for the nation, it may be sent to Manchester.

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—A general meeting of this society will be held on Wednesday evening next, the 18th inst., at the Gallery of British Artists, Suffolk-street, when the chair will be taken at eight o'clock by the Very Rev. the Dean of Westminster, a vice-president of the society, and the following papers will be read:—1. Middlesex at the time of the Domesday Survey. By Edward Griffith, Esq., F.R.S. 2. Walks in the City: Bishopsgate Ward. By the Rev. Thomas Hugo, M.A. 3. Monumental Brasses of London and Middlesex: By the Rev. Charles Boutell, M.A. A collection of antiquities will be formed at the place of meeting, to which members and others are invited to contribute. The society intends to visit the Tower of London in the month of June.

CONFERENCE AT THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.—A conference was held at the College of Physicians, Pall-mall, on Monday last, of representatives from the medical colleges of England, Ireland, and Scotland, with the view of determining upon the course which they ought to adopt in respect of the anticipated Medical Reform Bill. It is understood that the conference was favourable to the view recently adopted by a committee of the British Medical Association, to the effect that a portion of the "medical council" should be nominated by Government, but the third part, as proposed by the association's committee, was considered too much. The Select Committee of last year recommended that the whole of the council should be appointed by Government and be directly responsible to Parliament through its chief, the President of the Board of Health.

NATIONAL REFORMATORY AND REFUGE UNION.—The first annual meeting of the subscribers and supporters of the National Reformatory and Refuge Union was held on Wednesday, at Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's; the Earl of Shaftesbury in the chair. The meeting was most numerous attended, and amongst those on the platform were the Earl of Ducie, Hon. and Rev. J. Pelham, Hon. A. Kinnaird, Sir Stafford Northcote, Bart., M.P.; T. Chambers, Esq., M.P.; S. Whitbread, Esq., M.P.; Russell Gurney, Esq., Recorder of London; Rev. Canon Gurney, Earl of Chichester, Lord Kinnaird, Lord H. Cholmondeley, and Lord Charles Russell. The meeting was addressed by the chairman, Mr. R. Hanbury (junior), Sir Stafford Northcote, and the Hon. A. Kinnaird.

FREEMASONRY.—GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.—On Wednesday night a Grand Lodge of Emergency was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, for the purpose of proceeding with the arrears of business. Present the M.W. the G.M. the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland in the chair, the Right Hon. Lord Panmure, Viscount Goderich, &c. After the orders of the day had been disposed of, a lengthened discussion ensued on the vexed question as to whether Grand Lodge should assume the power of adjourning the quarterly communications. Lord Panmure opposed a resolution to this effect, as also did a number of other brethren, on the ground that it was not necessary: it was tantamount to a vote of want of confidence in the G.M. to assume such a power. The resolution was negatived, and the Grand Lodge was then adjourned.

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—The offers of a fair compromise on the part of the shareholders of this unfortunate concern have at length assumed a practical shape. At a meeting of the proprietors, held on Saturday last, the proposal to contribute such a sum among themselves as would, with the dividends already paid, and those yet to be paid out of the assets of the bank, make up a total of 16s. in the pound, was, after considerable discussion, finally agreed to; and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—"The shareholders of the Royal British Bank (through the committee) propose to agree to pay to the creditors of the bank a composition of 6s. 6d. in the pound, by two instalments—3s. in the pound on the 2nd of March next, and 3s. 6d. in the pound on the 17th April next; the creditors to receive such dividend beyond the assets under the bankruptcy in discharge of the debt due to them from the bank. The call of £50 per share made by the directors not to be enforced after the acceptance of the offer by the general body of creditors, and no proof to be made against the estate in bankruptcy in respect of any deposit or claim by a shareholder; the details of this arrangement to be agreed on between the solicitors of the committee of shareholders and the committee of depositors respectively." "That it is desirable a receiver should be appointed, if practicable, so as to afford protection to the shareholders; and also, that all the creditors should be required to execute a release to all the shareholders; but whether such appointment be made or release obtained, or not, the shareholders pledge themselves to pay the composition of 6s. 6d. in the pound, as mentioned in the foregoing resolution." The position of the creditors, if this arrangement should be carried out, would be this:—A dividend of 5s. 6d. in the pound has already been paid; there will be the composition of 6s. 6d.; a further dividend paid out of the estate in March next of 2s. 6d.; and it is expected that by June a final dividend of 1s. 6d. in the pound will be paid, making in the whole 16s.

CRIME IN THE METROPOLIS.—The Rev. John Davis, the ordinary of the gaol of Newgate, has just presented to the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen his report for the year 1856 upon the condition of the prison and the state of crime in the metropolis. Upon the subject of the ticket-of-leave system the Ordinary says:—"I think, however, that, under proper limitations, the ticket-of-leave system should be persevered in, and continue in force. It acts well upon many first offenders, such as letter-carriers in the Post-office, bank or merchant clerks, young men who under the strong influence of some passion fall into vices, then into crimes, and get transported, or subject to penal servitude. It is a rare circumstance for such persons, when liberated after three or four years' imprisonment, to fall again into crime; they return again to society, once more become useful in those duties, and while their real circumstances are unknown they prosper and are as well off as ever. By extending mercy to these young men, and taking off a portion of their heavy sentences, no harm is done to any one. The prisons are relieved, society is uninjured, and real contrition for great offences is encouraged; but as a general rule the ticket-of-leave system fails with men of habitual crime, and should never be applied to them except in rare instances of exemplary conduct." With regard to the garrotte robberies the Ordinary says:—"I have often thought, and still think, that the origin of garrotte robberies took place from the exhibition of the way the Thugs in India strangle and plunder passengers, as exhibited in the British Museum."

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The deaths registered in London—which had been in the first week of January 1135, and in the last week of the same month 1209—rose in the week that ended last Saturday to 1368. In the years 1847-56 the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1180. If this average is raised for the purpose of comparison proportionally to increase of population, it will become 1298; and hence it appears that the rate of mortality which prevailed last week was higher than the average rate in the beginning of February. The deaths of four nonagenarians were returned: the two oldest of these aged persons—namely, a widow in Queen-street, Ratcliff, and a lady in Southampton-row—had attained the age of ninety-six years. Last week the births of 976 boys and 915 girls, in all 1891 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56 the average number was 1620.

THE DOUBLE MURDER AT WALWORTH.—Thomas Fuller Bacon and Martha Bacon, his wife, were brought up from Horsemonger-lane Gaol for further examination, before Mr. Elliott, at Lambeth Police court, on Wednesday last, charged with the wilful murder of their two infant children. Mr. Harrison, the surgeon at Horsemonger-lane Gaol, said he had carefully watched the female prisoner, and he had come to the opinion that she was of unsound mind. Several other witnesses were examined, whose evidence tended to strengthen the belief that the father was the murderer. Mr. Elliott remanded the prisoners to a future day.

THE SAWARD GANG FORGERS.—At the Mansion-house on Wednesday James Anderson and James Townsend Saward, who have been repeatedly examined upon charges of extensive forgery upon many of the first banking-houses in the City, were brought before the Lord Mayor for final examination. Mr. Goodman, the chief clerk, proceeded to read the voluminous depositions of nearly sixty witnesses, which consumed nearly the whole of the day, at the conclusion of which Atwell, one of the approvers, and who has recently been sentenced to transportation for life upon a charge of forgery, was called into the box, and, upon cross-examination by Mr. Giffard, stated that previous to his present sentence of transportation for life he was in business in Booth-street, Spitalfields. That was about three years ago. He never forged in his life. He was in the "public line," in Booth-street. Saward's business was to forge. He was a professor of forgery. He (Atwell) never had anything to do with forged cheques till he became acquainted with Saward. W. S. Hardwicke, in his examination, said he had never been the cause of any man being transported; but if they would look at a list he had drawn up they would see that Saward had transported no less than eleven persons. The prisoners, who had nothing to say in defence, were fully committed for trial.

FIRE IN TOTTENHAM-COURT-ROAD.—A fire broke out on Thursday morning on the premises belonging to Mr. C. Hunter, upholsterer and cabinet-maker, Tottenham-court-road, in the mattress and feather rooms. The London Brigade engines were promptly on the spot, but the fire was not subdued until the part of the building where it broke out was destroyed, and the adjoining premises considerably damaged. The loss will fall on the Phoenix, Sun, Royal Exchange, Westminster, County, Manchester, and other offices.

COUNTRY NEWS.

THE ANTI-POOR-LAW-BOARD LEAGUE.—The National Anti-Poor-law-board League have received a communication, containing the names of the whole of the guardians of the Gloucester Union, forty in number, to be enrolled as members of the league, together with a draught for the amount of their aggregate subscriptions.

REPRESENTATION OF GLASGOW.—The *North British Daily Mail* publishes a letter addressed to Mr. John McGregor, M.P., by one of the influential wards of Glasgow, which has hitherto prominently supported him, calling his attention to his position in connection with the representation of the city, and the explanation promised by him upon the subject of his banking transactions. The letter is dated Dec. 31, but no answer has been received from Mr. McGregor up to the present.

Mr. J. Ellis, chairman of the Midland Railway Company, intends to offer himself as a candidate at the next general election to represent Leicester in Parliament, in opposition to Sir Joshua Walsley.

INDISPOSITION OF MR. THACKERAY.—On Tuesday evening Mr. Thackeray delivered one of his popular lectures on "The Georges," under the auspices of the Early-closing Association, and the presidency of the Mayor, in the new Mechanics' Hall, at Halifax, to a large and fashionable audience. Mr. Thackeray had engaged to deliver a second lecture on Wednesday evening, but he felt himself unequal to the task, in consequence of indisposition. The lecture was therefore postponed till Saturday (this evening).

DEATH OF R. J. PEEL, ESQ., OF BURTON-ON-TRENT.—We are sorry to have to record the death of R. J. Peel, Esq., who, after a short illness of a week, died at his residence in Burton Extra, on Monday last. Mr. Peel was the eldest son of the late John Peel, Esq., of Burton, and of the Pastures, who was Colonel of the Burton Volunteers at the time of the French revolutionary war. Mr. Peel was a nephew of the first Sir Robert Peel, and, therefore, a cousin of Sir Robert the great statesman. It is well known the Peels established cotton-mills in Burton about a century ago; these mills, after the death of his father, Colonel Peel, Mr. Peel, in conjunction with his cousin, the late Mr. John Peel, continued to carry on until 1841, when the trade in Burton was finally abandoned.—*Staffordshire Advertiser*.

THE LATE SIR FRANKLAND LEWIS.—A handsome monument, by Mr. B. Jennings, has just been erected in the church of Old Radnor to the memory of the late Right Honourable Sir Thomas Frankland Lewis, Bart., father of the present Chancellor of the Exchequer. The inscription, which is of considerable length, records, among the official services of the late right hon. Baronet, that "he was employed on important Commissions of Inquiry in England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland; and he successively filled the offices of Secretary to the Treasury, Vice-President of the Board of Trade, Treasurer of the Navy, and Poor-law Commissioner."

WELLS CATHEDRAL ORGAN.—A performance of classical music, to exhibit the beauties of this fine instrument, was given on Saturday last at St. Martin's Hall, by Mr. J. T. Cooper, whose playing elicited a flattering reception from the audience. The organ, built by Henry Willis, of London, is an admirable specimen of modern organ-building; and contains the patent combination movements, by which the player is enabled to make the most rapid change of stops, and thereby produce a perfect orchestral effect.

THE ALLEGED POISONING OF MRS. BACON AT STAMFORD.—Mrs. Bacon has, it is said, actually acknowledged that on the day her mother-in-law dined with them, she, by direction of her husband, mixed arsenic with the old woman's broth; and further, she said that afterwards her husband mixed more of the same poison with her medicine, before handing it to his mother, and this mixture she also drank. These disclosures the unfortunate woman made when told by a female relative in attendance on her that the body of her mother-in-law was about to be exhumed for the purpose of being examined, and when she had finished the frightful revelation she said, "This will take a great weight from off my mind." The inquest on the body of Mrs. Bacon has been adjourned to Wednesday next, when the surgeon who attended her will give his evidence, and Professor Taylor will report upon his analysis of the viscera.

CHAPEL BURNT DOWN AT MONTROSE.—On Saturday evening last, about seven o'clock, the English Episcopal Chapel, which stands in the Middle Links, Montrose, took fire, and in three hours was burnt to the ground. The fire originated in the vestry, from the overheating of the pipes of the new heating apparatus. The chapel had only been reoccupied about three months ago, after undergoing considerable enlargement and improvement. The property was insured before the late repairs; but it is feared the alterations on the fire apparatus will affect the policy.

SENIOR MEMBERS.—The claims of seventy-six members of the House of Commons to be wholly excused from serving on election committees, on account of being more than sixty years old, have been allowed. Among them are—Sir W. Clay, H. Drummond, W. J. Fox, Sir De Lacy Evans, Sir James Graham, Right Hon. J. Henley, J. Masterman, G. F. Muntz, Viscount Palmerston, Lord John Russell, and R. Spooner. Sir George Grey, Sir G. C. Lewis, and the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, are also excused during the time they hold their present offices, having stated that they cannot attend without material inconvenience to the public service.

DEATH OF THE CHIEF CLERK OF MARYLEBONE POLICE COURT.—On Thursday, upon the arrival of Mr. Long at the Police Court to attend upon his official duties, information was communicated to him by Mr. Smith, one of the officers, of the death of Mr. Fell, Chief Clerk, which took place that morning. He had been suffering some months from illness, but attended to his duties up to Monday last, since which day he had not been at the Court. He was in the 65th year of his age.

A SHOCKING TRAGEDY was brought to light in New York city on Sunday, the 25th ult. A German, named Rhineman, poisoned himself and family. Intemperance is the cause assigned for the commission of the dreadful deed.

WRECK OF THE RAVENSBOROUGH STEAMER.—On Sunday evening, as the steam-ship *Ravensbourn* was on her return trip from Antwerp to London, in coming out of the harbour a heavy sea caught her bow and threw her against the pierhead, where she stove in her bows and sustained considerable damage. Captain Bacon, finding that the vessel was fast settling down, succeeded in landing the passengers, but failed in his efforts to get the unfortunate ship ashore before she went down. The crew happily escaped in the boats.

STREET RAILWAYS.—At the meeting of the Society of Arts, on Wednesday, Mr. W. B. Adams read a paper on "the application of rails for horse transit in the streets and environs of London, and also for railway branches." Having disposed of the mechanical portion of the question, which consisted in running the carriage upon rails with grooves, he thus laid down the cost of working the project:—"Supposing the lines made by individuals, or small companies buying old rails, the cost might be about £1000 per single mile. The total double mileage would therefore be, say 140, and the capital would be £140,000. Taking depreciation and maintenance at 20 per cent per annum, the annual outlay would be £28,000 a year, being upwards of £200 per mile, and far beyond what it would amount to in practice. From the Strand, over Waterloo-bridge, by the Elephant and Castle, to the Crystal Palace, measures about eight miles. This would be £3600; say £2000 per annum for depreciation and maintenance. The time of transit would be about one hour. The vehicles could be as comfortable as railway carriages, and much lighter—lighter, in fact, than ordinary omnibuses, in proportion. They could carry fifty-six passengers each, and they might follow each other every five minutes, or less. Twelve vehicles would thus convey 672 passengers in less than two hours. Twenty-four vehicles, at shorter intervals, 1344 passengers in two hours, and would land them at the level, saving the "getting up stairs." Of course, extra haulage would be required on the steep inclines, but extra horses or small engines might be used for that. The vehicles could be all on return in two hours, and be taking several batches. In short, with 24 vehicles, 56 passengers, at one hour from the time of starting, could be delivered every 2½ minutes, or 1344 per hour. Six hours' running would be equivalent to upwards of 8000 passengers delivered, and six hours more for the return, making 16,000. At 6d. per head this would be £400 a day. Take the vehicles only half full, it would leave £200 per day, or £62,600 a year revenue, without counting Sundays." After some discussion the meeting separated.

SKETCHES FROM CHINA.—MARRIAGES.

WE resume the Illustrations from the Sketches of our Chinese Artist with a representation of the form of preparing to enter into a marriage contract. Upon the table is a tablet bearing the names of the contracting parties, with doves as emblematic supporters.

Early marriages are encouraged in China; among the Mandarins and wealthy classes the matrimonial age varies from sixteen to twenty years in males; from twelve to fourteen in females. The poorer classes marry as soon as they acquire sufficient money to purchase a wife and defray the attendant expenses. Occasionally a poor man will go to the foundling hospital in his neighbourhood, and obtain a girl, that he may take her home and educate her, giving her in marriage to his son when the young folks have arrived at a proper age. The thrift and caution of the national character is fully developed in this arrangement. In the first place, the money is saved which must have been expended in the purchase of a wife; in the second, the girl is educated by her mother-in-law (that is to be)

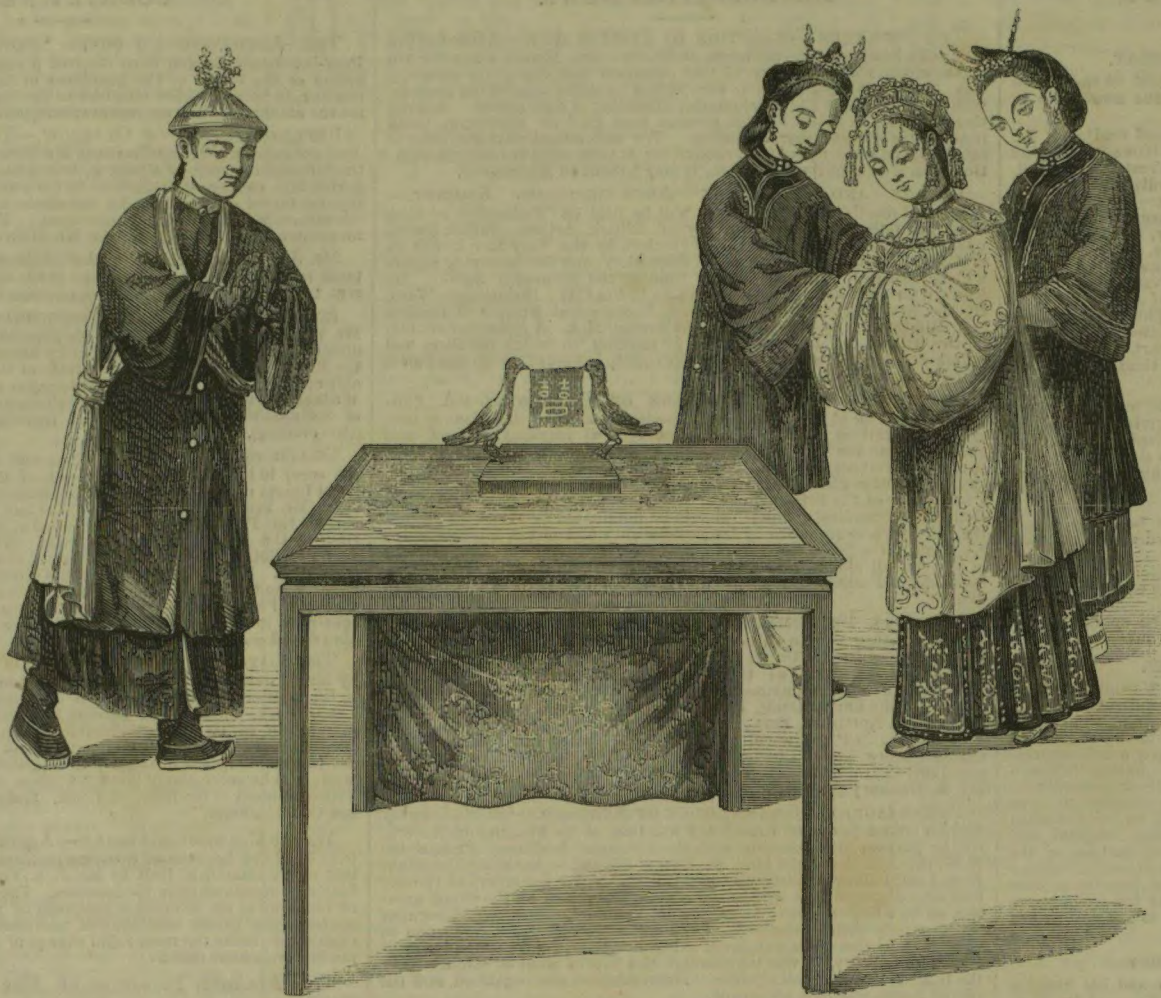
thereby falling into all the old lady's economical habits; thirdly and lastly, if the girl is not good-tempered, industrious, and respectful in her demeanour to her intended husband and his parents, she is very quickly sent about her business without the attendant fuss which ensues when a wife is sent back to her family for misconduct after her marriage.

The parties about to contract a marriage never see each other, the whole affair being arranged by their relations, or go-betweens, which are old women, who describe the lady in the most glowing terms, or the reverse, according to the presents which are made to them. One of their customs before marriage, although synonymous with our fashion of sending a lady's portrait, is most extraordinary. As the damsel cannot be seen her shoe is sent to the gentleman, that he may be enabled to judge of the dimensions of her crippled feet—the smallness of the foot being a Chinaman's *beau-ideal* of perfection.

Daughters have no fortunes in China; but the man who is about to marry agrees to give a certain sum, which is aid out in clothes and jewels for the bride. The sums of money vary according to the rank of the parties; the Mandarins frequently giving six thousand taels for a wife (a tael being six and fourpence sterling), and the bride is invariably selected from a family of equal station.

The presents given to the female's parents, in the middle and lower ranks, are sometimes of a ludicrous description, according to our barbarian notions, being fat pigs, dried fish, live poultry, chests of tea, sugar-candy, preserved fruits, and such like unromantic gear; the quality and quantity of these presents is invariably agreed upon when the bargain is first struck.

The ceremony of the marriage is gone through at the bridegroom's house; upon the nuptial day the bride leaves her father's home, accompanied by a numerous train of attendants; the bride is placed in a sedan-chair, most profusely gilded, and decorated most gaily with artificial flowers of brilliant hues; attendants, bearing torches and flambeaux, surround the chair, the servant who bears the key of the precious casket walking nearest the sedan—for we must state, that no sooner is the lady seated in the chair than the door is locked by her father or nearest male relative, the key being given to the confidential servant, who has orders to deliver it only to the bridegroom. Numerous attendants precede and follow the bride's chair, carrying flags, magnificent lanterns, beating gongs, and sounding wind instruments; the ladies of the two families are in sedan-chairs, which follow the bride's; the male relatives and friends walking in the procession. There is a great display of presents of all kinds, which are to accompany the bride to her new home—these consist of ladies' dresses, borne on stands; carved chests, which are to be supposed to contain all sorts of treasures; stands, in which are placed



FORM OF A TREATY OF MARRIAGE IN CHINA.—FROM A DRAWING BY A CHINESE ARTIST.

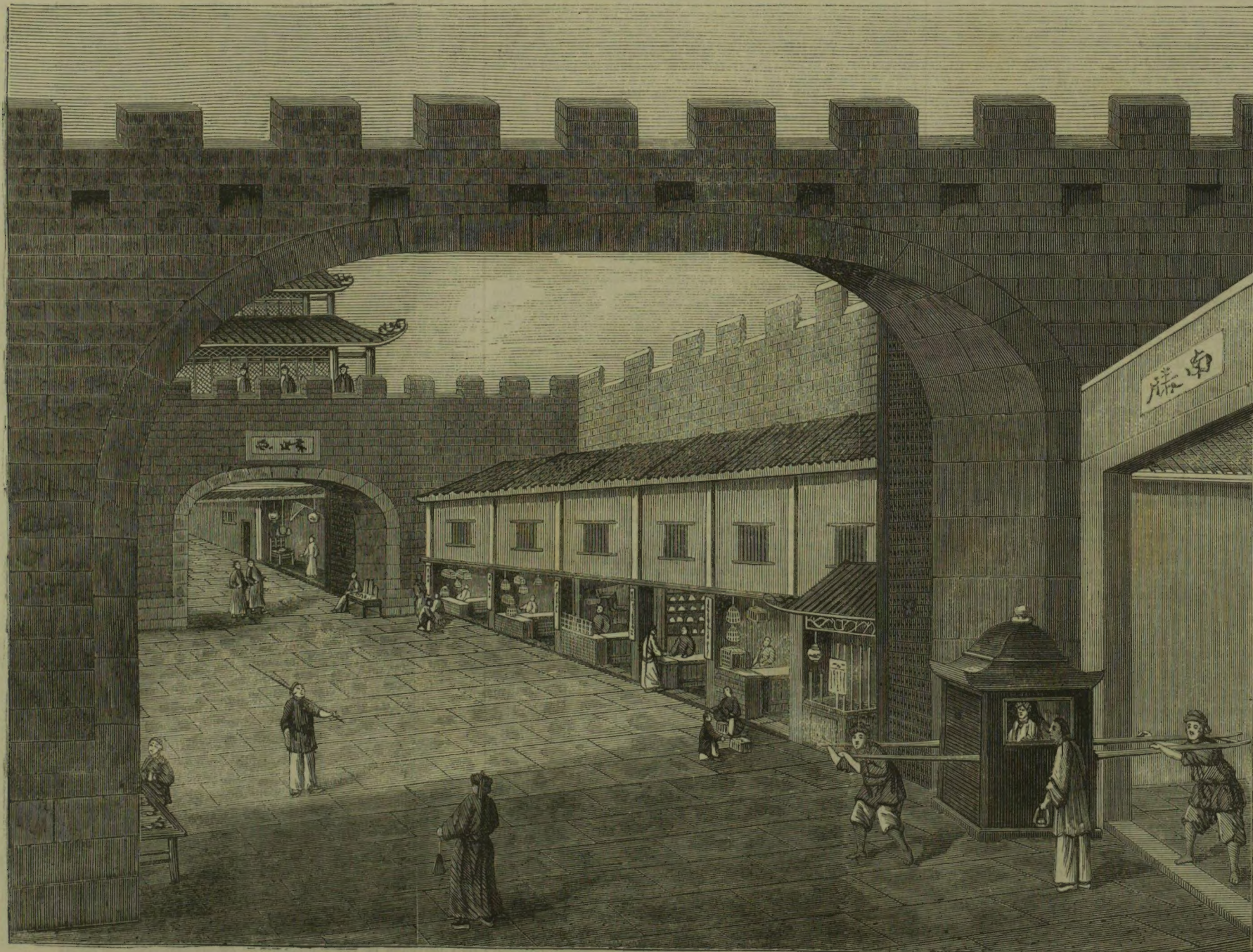
jars containing sam-shoo, wine, and preserved fruits; cages containing the mandarin ducks, fowls, and frequently a fine fat pig, in a gaily-decorated bamboo cage, bring up the rear of the presents. The grandeur of a marriage procession is measured by the number of attendants.

CANTON WITHIN THE WALLS.

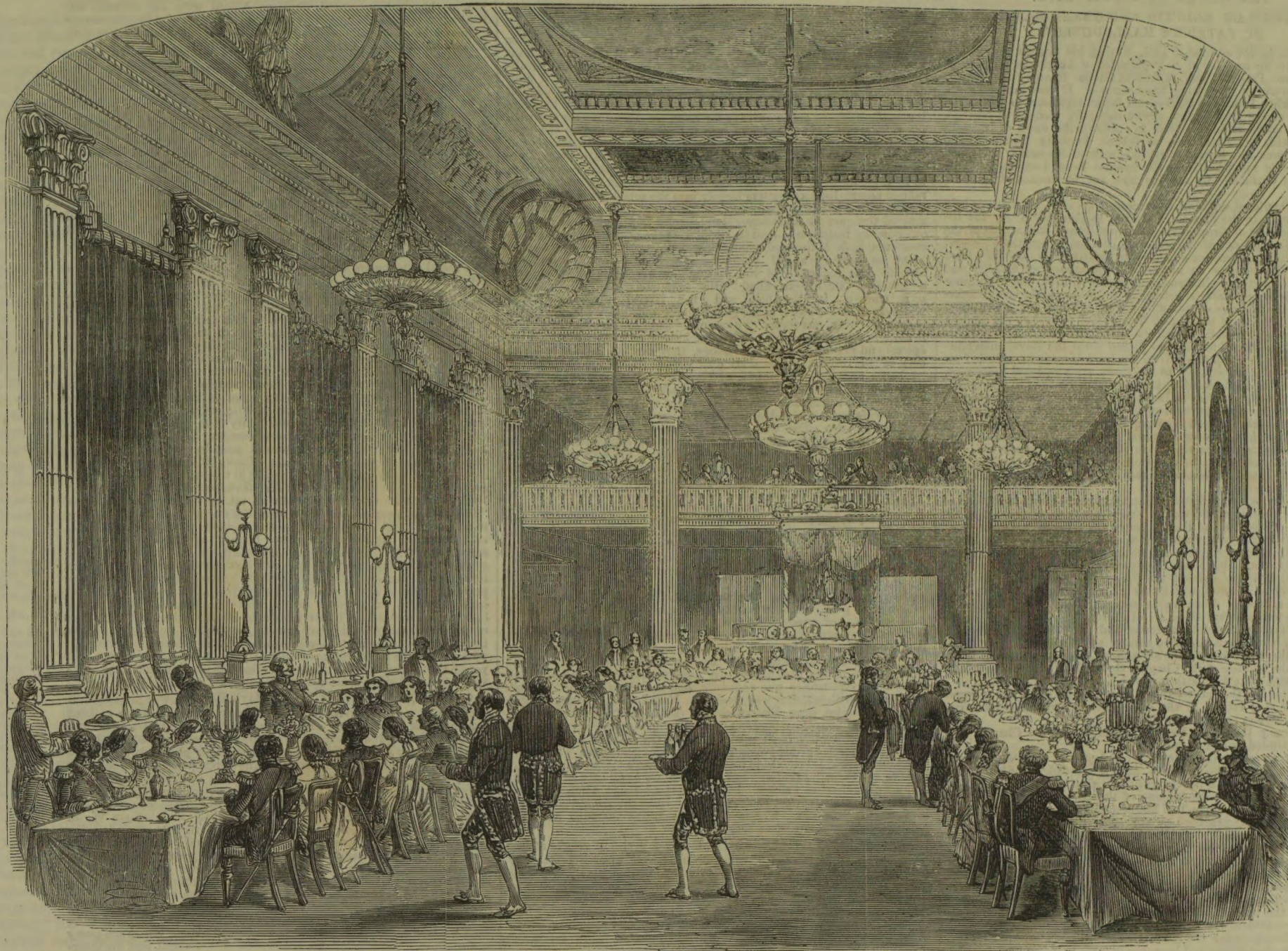
In our Journal for Jan. 31 we illustrated the foreign quarter of Canton, where, according to a letter from the Chinese seas, dated the 16th December, and published in the *Moniteur de la Flotte*, some new details are given relative to the late affair at Canton, showing that the damage sustained by the foreign merchants was not as great as had been stated in the first accounts. It appears that, of thirteen quarters, of which Chy-San-Hang, the residence of the Europeans, is composed, five have been destroyed. It was said that, of the eighty foreign

Of the city within the walls we engrave a View from a drawing by a Chinese artist. In the left-hand foreground is the sedan, which is a general conveyance used by persons of quality in China. Of the physiognomy of the street the following is a picture:—"The shops, being principally open in front, and the whole of the merchandise being thus exposed to view, present a most showy, alluring appearance to the spectator. The interior of these shops are neatly fitted up, and the goods tastefully disposed for inspection; whilst the intermixture of various-coloured paper inscriptions hanging on the walls, and variegated lanterns pendent from the roof, have an extraordinary and pleasing effect. The inscriptions and notices are generally to the following effect:—"Much talk injures business." "Having once been cheated, we are made cautious" (Cheat a Chinaman in money matters! what European could accomplish a feat of that description?) "No credit can here be given." "All here is sold at its true value and being good, praise is needless, &c."

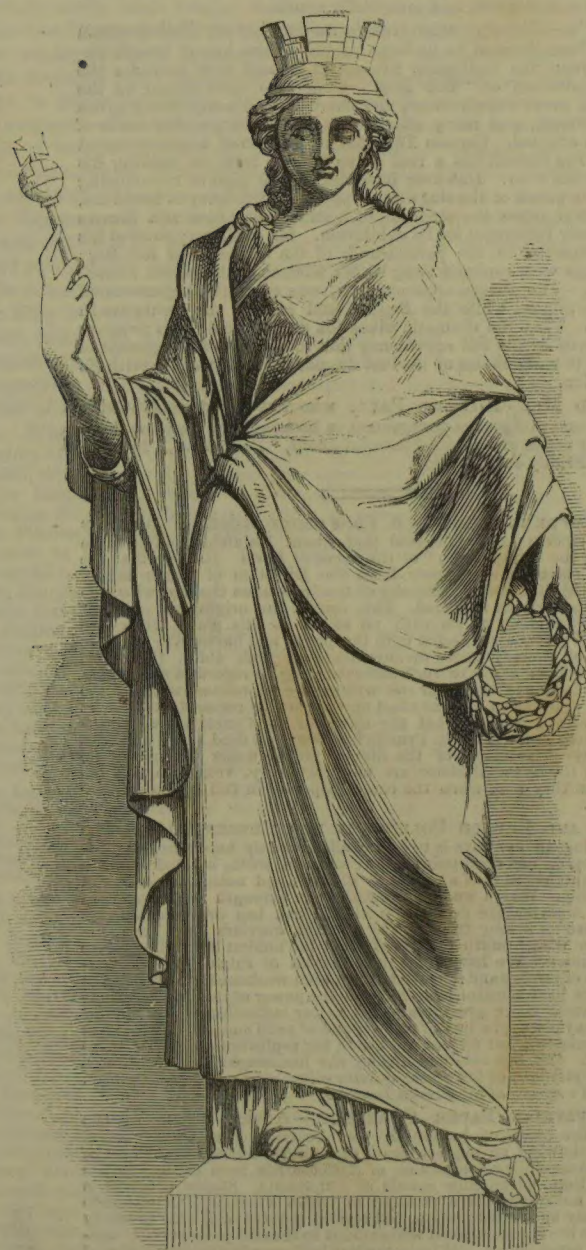
factories and stores which existed at Canton, only nine, including the British Consulate, escaped the conflagration. This, it states, is an error. Of the eighty establishments twenty-one have been burnt down. This is a considerable loss, no doubt, but it is much less than that reported. It appears that there existed at Canton a floating population of from 25,000 to 30,000 thieves and vagabonds—refugees from all parts of China. When the English ships commenced fire, these men, taking advantage of the alarm, rushed in large bodies into the Chy-San-Hang, and having first pillaged the European stores set fire to them. The British Admiral, seeing what was going forward, brought two of his ships to bear on the pillagers and sent some shells among them, which caused them to fly. Unfortunately the shot from the British ships increased the fire lighted by the vagabonds. The Captain of the French frigate *Virginie* sent a detachment of 150 men on shore, with four light howitzers, to complete the discomfiture of the pillagers, who fled in every direction, leaving a number of their body dead in the streets. The French seamen were labouring indefatigably in extinguishing the fire, which they in a great measure accomplished. As to the Chinese town, it suffered horribly, as well by the fire of the English ships as by the native robbers. Of the twelve great factories belonging to the Hong merchants, and which were situate near the Tartar town, nine were destroyed by the first attack. The English merchants interested in those establishments suffered considerably by that disaster. At the latest dates, the British Admiral, having occupied the Chinese military positions, had no more opposition to expect. A great number of merchants had emigrated to Shanghai, but the 500,000 inhabitants of Canton cannot so easily dispose of themselves.



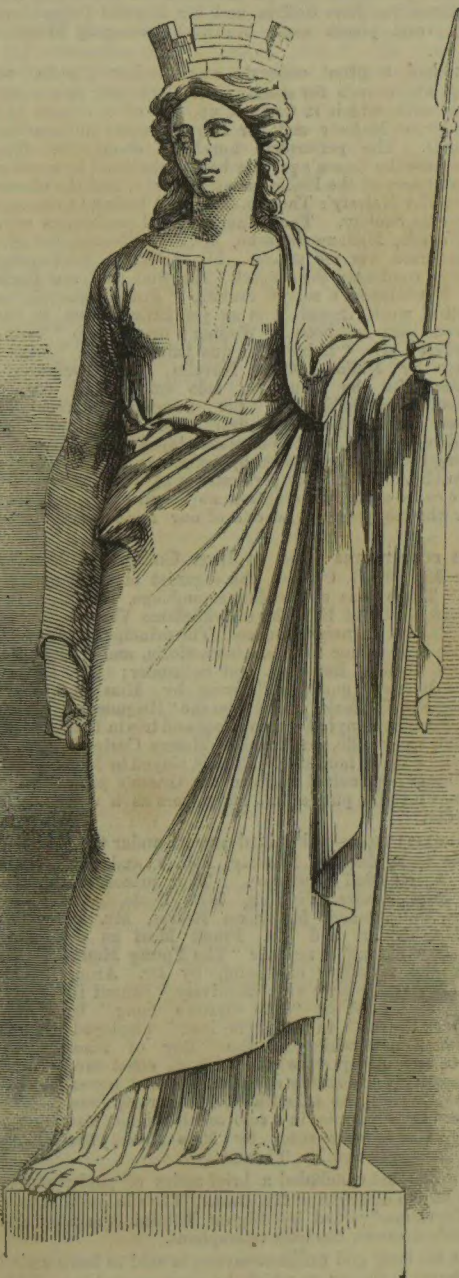
STREET WITHIN THE CITY WALLS, CANTON.—FROM A DRAWING BY A CHINESE ARTIST.



GRAND BANQUET TO THE KNIGHTS OF ST. PATRICK, IN DUBLIN CASTLE.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



LONDON.



EDINBURGH.



DUBLIN.

THE NEW INLAND REVENUE OFFICE.—STATUES JUST PLACED ON THE NEW FRONT OF SOMERSET-HOUSE.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

THE ORDER OF ST. PATRICK.

INVESTITURE OF KNIGHTS AND GRAND BANQUET IN ST. PATRICK'S HALL, DUBLIN.

GEORGE IV., in the autumn of 1821, during his famous visit to Ireland, held, on the occasion of an installation of Knights of St. Patrick, a banquet in St. Patrick's Hall, in Dublin Castle. George's St. Patrick's Banquet was one of surpassing magnificence. It was the last given until now, when Ireland's brighter and better days seem to be coming. The loyalty of the Irish people grows naturally warmer, if possible, with its fortunes; and, therefore, to celebrate the dawn of Ireland's prosperity with the restoration of the St. Patrick's Banquet in a truly sumptuous way is an additional mark of the sound sense and elegant taste of his Excellency the present Lord Lieutenant—"the good Earl of Carlisle"—to use his now not uncommon designation in Ireland.

A grand Chapter of the Most Illustrious Order of St. Patrick was held last Friday week in the Presence Chamber, Dublin Castle, for the investiture of the Earl of Granard and Viscount Gough, as Knights of the Order. The occurrence of the ceremony at a time when the Viceroyal Levee and Drawingroom drew to the now thriving city of Dublin from all parts of the country an unusually large number of nobility and gentry served to give it additional importance. Still further to enhance the éclat of the investiture arising from the worthiness of the new Knights chosen, and the presence of such an array of visitors, his Excellency, who is Grand Master of the Order, determined to restore the ancient and time-honoured custom of giving a grand banquet in St. Patrick's Hall, a practice suffered to fall into disuse since the Royal entertainment by George IV. In this revival the Lord Lieutenant afforded an additional proof of his anxiety to maintain, with national sentiment, the dignity of his high position, and at the same time to strengthen the general tone of prosperity in Ireland. It should be also mentioned that heretofore the rich flowing mantles of the Knights were made of foreign manufacture, notwithstanding that the statutes of the order prescribed they should be of material produced in Ireland. His Excellency, adhering more rigidly to the statutes, caused his own Grand Master's mantle to be made of beautiful Irish poplin. His example was followed by several of the Knights, and it is to be hoped will be soon by them all.

The ceremony, which commenced at three o'clock, was brief, but of an impressive character, and was in every particular conducted under the direction of Sir Bernard Burke, the Ulster King of Arms, in strict accordance with the statutes and precedents. The investiture fills the number of Knights prescribed—all nobles—namely, twenty-two. At the appointed hour the Lord Lieutenant, wearing the ribbon and badge of Grand Master, entered the Presence Chamber, and took his seat in the chair of office, which was placed at the head of a table covered with crimson. At each side were the sedilia for the Knights. The Knights present were the Earl of Howth, the Marquis of Headfort, Lord Farnham, Lord Massareene, and the Marquis of Londonderry. They wore their mantles, collars, and badges. Ulster King having, by the Lord Lieutenant's command, read the Queen's letter authorising the holding of the Chapter, the Earl of Granard and Gen. Viscount Gough were forthwith invested Knights of St. Patrick.

At the close of the proceeding Ulster called over the several Knights, and they retired in the same order as they entered, bowing to the Grand Master on withdrawal.

His Excellency the Grand Master then broke up the Chapter and withdrew, attended as he had entered.

The visitors in taking their departure delayed to observe the preparations which were being made in St. Patrick's Hall for the banquet that took place in the evening; and all admired the splendour and beauty of the new decorations of this noble apartment of the Castle of Dublin. The entire hall has been recently painted and ornamented, and the effect produced by the soft white colour which prevails, and which is relieved by the rich gilding of the pillars, pilasters and cornices, and stucco work, is most striking. A number of large oval mirrors have been set in a corresponding number of panels of the inner wall, and serve greatly to enhance the general gorgeousness of this stupendous room, unequalled by anything of the kind in Buckingham or St. James's Palaces. The colouring of the frescoes and the paintings on the ceiling, known triumphs of art, have been revived. At night these artistic and tasteful decorations stand out with extraordinary brilliancy under the flood of light thrown upon them by myriads of gas chandeliers and branches bearing wax tapers.

The magnificent banquet in the evening (of which we give an illustration) was attended by little short of a hundred of the nobility and gentry. Several members of the Order of St. Patrick were present, including the newly-invested Knights, whose healths were proposed by the Lord Lieutenant, and drunk by the company. Amongst the company were—the Earl and Countess of Howth, Lord and the Ladies St. Lawrence, the Marquis and Marchioness of Headfort, the Marquis of Kildare, the Earl and Countess of Miltown and Lady Barbara Leeson, Lord and Lady Farnham and the Misses Stapleton, Viscount and Viscountess Massareene and the Hon. Miss Skeffington, the Marquis of Londonderry, the Earl of Granard and Viscountess Forbes, Viscount and Lady Gough, Hon. Captain and Mrs. Gough, and the dignitaries and officers of the Order and of their ladies.

SOMERSET HOUSE.—THE NEW INLAND REVENUE-OFFICE.

We now complete the illustration of the Statues which adorn the new or west front of Somerset House, intended for the Inland Revenue-office. These statues personify the three principal cities of the United Kingdom—London, Edinburgh, and Dublin.

London is represented holding a sceptre in her right hand, and in her left a wreath of laurel: she is murally crowned, and the hair falls upon the shoulders in large curls. The drapery is very boldly treated, the outer garment passing from the right arm over the shoulders, and enveloping the left arm; it is then passed over the right hip, upon which it rests, falling thence in great breadth.

The figure of Edinburgh is gracefully treated. She is attired in a rather close dress, over which is thrown a mantle, terminating on the left arm; in the left hand she has a spear, which she holds in a quiescent manner, thrown slightly forward. Like her sister, London, she is crowned with a mural crown.

Dublin is perhaps the least successful of the three statue personifications of the cities—the drapery does not hang so well. She holds in her right hand and supports on the right hip the harp of Erin; in the left hand she bears a scroll, partly unrolled. The hair is confined behind by ribbons, the ends of which fall upon the shoulders. She is also murally crowned.

The statue of London is by Legrew; and those of Edinburgh and Dublin are by Theed.

The three companion statues of Manchester, Glasgow, and Belfast, were engraved in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS for Nov. 1, 1856.

AN EAGLE AMONGST CRANES.—The *Akhbar*, of Algiers, relates a strange story. A number of cranes, some days ago, alighted on the road from Orleansville to Tenez, near a spot where some soldiers were at work, and presently a large eagle, sweeping down on them, attempted to seize one; but the cranes defended and rescued their unfortunate companion. The eagle then tried to seize another, but all the cranes defended themselves vigorously, and a regular battle ensued. After it had raged for some time two ravens arrived and took the part of the cranes. The combat then continued with renewed fury, and there was no saying what would have been the result, if a soldier had not dispersed the combatants by killing one of the cranes with his sword. The fury of the conflict may be judged of from the fact that the soldier was able to get close to the cranes without being noticed. Although, however, the conflict was put an end to, the eagle seized one of the cranes and bore it off in triumph.

A NARROW ESCAPE.—An old lady residing in one of the suburbs of Paris had complained for some short time past of pains in the head, which she could attribute to no special cause. Two days ago she promised to be present at the wedding of one of her granddaughters, who was engaged to marry a young man who had recently left the corps of Pompiers. On the appointed day the young couple presented themselves at the residence of the old lady to convey her to the mairie. They found her in bed, complaining of indisposition. The young man had not been in the room many seconds before he exclaimed "Silence!" and to the astonishment of the persons present stretched himself on the floor, and appeared to listen to some slight sound. This astonishment was transformed into consternation on his rising and informing the company that the rafters were on fire, and had been probably burning for days past. Water was instantly supplied in abundance, the flooring torn up, and the fire extinguished. It was found that several of the beams were completely calcined, and that in a few hours more very probably the flooring would have crumbled away. The indisposition of the old lady must have been caused by the heaviness of the air produced by the smouldering fire.—*Sicile*.

MUSIC.

THE brilliant and successful concert of the AMATEUR MUSICAL SOCIETY, on Monday evening, afforded a fresh proof of the progress made by the fashionable world in the cultivation of music. Without going back to the days of Lord Chesterfield, who, while gaming, drinking, dancing, horseracing, and foxhunting were quite *comme il faut*, denounced music as an amusement unfit for a gentleman, and advised his son, if he wanted music, to "hire a fiddler, but never to fiddle himself"—without going quite so far back, we can remember the time when "a concert of amateurs" was never mentioned but as the subject of satirical jokes—as the type of everything that was tiresome and ridiculous. Nowadays *nous avons changé tout cela*. Amateurs, male and female, make themselves proficient in the art without derogation to their position in the world, and the practice of an elegant and refined accomplishment enters largely into the social pleasures of high and fashionable life. The most illustrious modern musicians have studied their art as amateurs—Mendelssohn and Meyerbeer are two out of many instances. And in London, at the present time, we have amateurs, both ladies and gentlemen, who are able to contest the palm, as composers and performers, with our best professional artists. The orchestra of the society we are speaking of—nearly a hundred strong—is filled with men of rank and title—men eminent in the arts and the liberal professions, who willingly obey the baton of the gifted young amateur whom they have chosen to "rule over them." The result of their practice and discipline is more and more apparent. Without having as yet acquired all the *aplomb* and precision of regular troops, they are not greatly deficient in this respect, while their own ardour imparts a warmth and freshness to their performance, which is exceedingly agreeable. We must observe, however, that this society make a mistake almost universally prevalent. Their orchestra, like every other great orchestra that we know, is too large, and would be too large even if made up of professional players. The well-known dictum of Beethoven (on such a subject an authority without appeal) is quite disregarded—that a concert-room orchestra, even for the grandest of his own symphonies, ought not to be more than sixty strong. This number is quite sufficient for real power: to exceed it is only to produce noise, confusion, and real weakness. Were the society to diminish their band—not by excluding any of their performing members altogether from the orchestra, but by employing them in turn—they would soon discover the great advantages of the measure. At the concert of Monday last the great features of the evening were Haydn's symphony in B flat (No. 5 of the Salomon set), and Hummel's pianoforte concerto in A flat, performed by "Angelina." The symphony was played with a degree of fire which made up for occasional deficiencies in smoothness and delicacy. Had a few of the superfluous violins and basses been absent, the performance would have been irreproachable. When the band came to accompany Hummel's concerto, the stringed instruments were considerably thinned, and the effect was most satisfactory. The fair young pianist (whom we have often mentioned, and who is now well known in the musical world) made good her claim to be regarded as an artist of the first class. In tone, execution, expression, and style, her performance was exquisite, and well deserved the thunders of applause with which it was received. Miss Leffler, a young vocalist of great promise, sang Piatti's pretty canon, "La Ricordanza," with an obligato accompaniment on the violoncello, very gracefully executed by Lord Gerald Fitzgerald, son of the Duke of Leinster. A march, composed by this young nobleman, was performed with great spirit and effect. It brought to mind Mendelssohn's "Wedding March," and the March in "Athalie," but it showed no small skill in the difficult art of orchestral writing. Several fine part-songs, admirably sung by the male voices of Mr. Leslie's choir, formed the remainder of this very excellent concert. The room, as usual, was crowded with the most fashionable company in London.

MISS ARABELLA GODDARD has begun a series of *soirées* at her residence in Welbeck-street, and the first was given on Tuesday evening. We need scarcely tell our musical readers that this young lady has proved herself one of the greatest pianists of the day, not in England only, but in Europe. In some particulars, executive power especially, we are inclined to regard her as actually unrivalled, while she is largely gifted with the genius, intelligence, and feeling of a true artist. Her various performances on this occasion were delightful specimens of her versatile talents. They included *chefs-d'œuvre* of the greatest masters in the most various styles; and in the works of Handel, Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, and Heller, she was equally at home. Her great effort was Beethoven's sonata in E major, Op. 109—a performance which filled the audience not merely with admiration, but with unbounded astonishment. In the concerted music she was assisted by Mr. Blagrove, Herr Goffrie, and Mr. Horatio Chipp; and several classical vocal pieces were beautifully sung by Madame Endersohn.

THE QUEEN had a great concert, at Windsor Castle, on Tuesday evening, which calls for special notice, not only on account of the splendour with which it was got up, but of the taste and *recherche* shown by her Majesty and her Royal Consort in the selection of the music. The performers numbered about 140. The instrumentalists were the Queen's private band, reinforced by some of the principal performers of the Philharmonic Society; and the chorus was selected from Her Majesty's Theatre, the Royal Italian Opera, and the Sacred Harmonic Society. The principal vocal performers were Madame Clara Novello, Madame Bassano, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Weiss. Mrs. Anderson was the pianist. Mr. Anderson, the director of the private band, conducted the concert. The first part was made up entirely of Mendelssohn's sacred cantata, "Praise Jehovah," a great and beautiful work, though it is as yet little known to the public. The second part consisted of Wagner's overture to "Tannhauser;" Meyerbeer's aria, "Robert, toi que j'aime," from "Robert le Diable," sung by Madame Clara Novello; and Beethoven's "Choral Fantasia" for the pianoforte, solo voices, and chorus. This last piece, remarkable for the peculiar manner in which Beethoven united for the first time the powers of instrumental and vocal music, used to be often played by Mrs. Anderson before the long interruption (caused by her severe accident) to her appearances in public. From this performance at Windsor we may presume that the cause of the interruption no longer exists, and that we may hope for the reappearance of one of our most accomplished artists.

AN excellent concert was given at Eton College on Monday evening last, by Mr. W. G. CUSINS, the organist of her Majesty's private chapel. There was a crowded assemblage, including Dr. Hawtrey, the Head Master of Eton, M. and Madame Van de Weyer, and all the notabilities of the neighbourhood. The principal pieces were Mendelssohn's trio in D minor for the piano, violin, and violoncello, played by Messrs. Cusins, Remenyi, and Schröder; Mr. Cusins's barcarolle, "Gently row, gondolier," sung by Miss Dolby, and encored; Thalberg and De Bériot's duet from the "Huguenots," played by Messrs. Cusins and Remenyi; Beethoven's grand trio in B flat, for the piano, clarinet, and violoncello, performed by Messrs. Cusins, Williams, and Schröder; and a violin fantasia of Ernst's, played by M. Remenyi. This young performer is principal violin in the Queen's private band. He is not yet known to the public, but his powers as a violinist are of the highest order.

BEAUMONT INSTITUTION.—The third concert under the direction of Mr. D. Francis took place on Monday, Feb. 9, and gave general satisfaction to a crowded audience. The principal artists engaged were Miss Louisa Vinning, Miss Poole, the Misses Brougham, Miss St. Amand, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Rosenthal, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Carder, and Mr. Frank Mori as conductor. Miss Poole gave in a charming manner "The Young Mountaineer," by Auber; also the favourite old song, by Dr. Arne, "Pray Goody." Miss L. Vinning sang very effectively "Ernani involami," and was loudly applauded in "The Syrian Song," by Frank Mori. Mr. Sims Reeves, in "All is lost," displayed intense pathos and refinement; while in the "Bay of Biscay" his magnificent voice and manly style told with an effect rarely heard in the concert-room. It was loudly redemanded; and, notwithstanding the immense exertion, he substituted "My pretty Jane." Miss St. Amand showed great promise in a solo on the piano; and "Blow gentle gales" was effectively sung by Miss Poole, the Misses Brougham, Mr. Rosenthal, and Mr. Thomas.

MDME. GRISI has just concluded a brief series of performances at Liverpool, under the direction of Mr. Beale. The success of Mdme. Grisi in the "Trovatore," aided by Signor Valpini (the new and already-distinguished tenor), has been triumphant.

ROSSINI, after his long and brilliant career, is said to have ended by losing all interest in the art to which he owes everything. This we hope is not true; and, indeed, is contradicted by an occurrence

mentioned by the Paris correspondent of the *Musical World*, that Rossini has just presented Madame Alboni with his portrait, enhancing the value of the gift by the following graceful inscription:—"Offert à Marietta Alboni, Contessa di Popoli, par son maître et ami, Gioacchino Rossini. Paris, le 15 Janvier, 1857."

THE THEATRES, &c.

HAYMARKET.—A new three-act drama was produced at this theatre on Saturday, and promises to achieve a more than ordinary popularity. Not that it is an original piece, or novel in its elements, but that it illustrates with more than usual variety the opposition growing in modern life more and more intense between the material and intellectual instincts that govern the different classes of society. We have here the monetary interest antagonised by the artistic, and at last yielding, not only to its moral superiority, but its physical triumph. The title of the new drama is "Double-faced People; and it is indebted for its plot and incident to a French vaudeville by MM. Théodore Barrière and Ernest Capendu, entitled "Les Faux Bonhommes." The social antagonism at which we have hinted is mainly carried on between George Medley, an artist (Mr. W. Farren), and Mr. Jonathan Vacile (Mr. Chippendale), a speculator, whose daughter Emily (Mrs. E. Fitzwilliam) has won the affections of the portrait-painter. He has, however, a rival in a Mr. Augustus Pike (Mr. E. Villiers), more to the liking of the father from the similarity of his pursuits. Pike, with his friend Scripp (Mr. Braid), engages in a bubble company, which, of course, fails; but, meanwhile, in the paternal estimation he is the favourite wooer. Medley has a temporary advantage in having a millionaire for his uncle, one Moneybee (Mr. Rogers); but the latter, preferring the Stock Exchange to the studio, withdraws his patronage from his nephew until Medley consents to take his place among the competitors of Capel-court. By thus conceding to the prevailing taste he obtains Vacile's acquiescence in his marriage with Emily and a dowry of twenty thousand pounds. Pike, accordingly, puts up with the younger daughter—Fanny (Miss Reynolds)—whom, however, he is not able to wed, owing to the unfortunate affair with Scripp. She falls to the share of Mr. Scrummill, a caricaturist (Mr. Buckstone), who employs his time in taking eccentric likenesses of "double-faced people," and these form the materials of an interesting scrap-book. Old Vacile is ultimately ruined by his speculations, and becomes dependent on the bounty of Medley, who has saved his wife's dowry and succeeded in his profession. We could have wished that the present, however successful, had been less of an art-drama. The exceptional nature of the artist's work deprives the moral of the piece of that universality which we should have preferred on account of its wider usefulness. Work versus Speculation would have been a more sympathetic theme, and the heart of the commonalty would have beat in response to its appeal. It is time to come out from studios, libraries, and laboratories, and mingle with the people in the ordinary occupations of life. The drama will yet do this. Suffice it for the present that the play before us is good, is well acted, and wholesome both in its tone and spirit.

OLYMPIC.—A new farce, by Mr. Bayle Bernard, was produced on Wednesday, and achieved an extraordinary triumph. It is entitled "A Splendid Investment," and has the merit of being an original and not a translated production. The scene is the Belle Vue at Ramsgate, to which Titus Fulgent (Mr. Robson) comes for pleasure, and meets with various annoyances, all connected, however, with his own domestic and pecuniary arrangements, which are thus ultimately settled at a place of public resort. All this is naturally enough brought about, and exhibits Mr. Robson in various phases of comic emotion, and many odd situations, some of a farcical and others of an almost tragic character. Titus Fulgent has, in fact, invested the sum of a thousand pounds on the chance of a Mr. Rockingham (Mr. G. Vining), being married to a certain young lady; having been induced to make the advance by the offer of fifty per cent and the representations of a roguish lawyer. Rockingham, however, is not married; but comes, in fact, to Ramsgate with his intended, who has eloped with him, and pleads with Titus to assist them in escaping from their pursuers. Titus sees there is little probability of getting back his loan unless the marriage is accomplished, and becomes a party in the affair. Then follow the jealousy of Mrs. Fulgent, and his interview with the young lady's aunt (who turns out to be his best customer), and a number of other perplexities, all of which keep Mr. Robson in perpetual motion and the audience in constant laughter. At length Fulgent is worked up to the pitch of tragic rage with Rockingham, and a scene ensues which must be seen to be appreciated. In a word, the farce is a capital one, and is capitally acted.

ASTLEY'S.—The equestrian transformation that our Shakspearean drama has been doomed to undergo at this house has at length extended beyond the legitimate five-act play, and now includes the musical production of "Rob Roy," which has been placed on the boards with great completeness, the choruses and songs being given in their entirety, and many effects added from the peculiar mode of illustration adopted. Captain Thornton now boasts of a well-mounted troop, and Rob himself has a real horse to leap from on making his escape into the river. However irregular such a plan of reproducing the favourite pieces of the stage may appear, its tendency is beneficial, inasmuch as it raises the standard of histrionic ambition at a theatre not previously celebrated for its exhibition. Mr. Holloway showed his wonted judgment in the performance of the character of Rob Roy; and the songs were capitally sung by Mr. Eburne, in the part of Francis Osbaldistone. The Douglas-creature, also, was correctly impersonated by Mr. Hemmings; while the Bailie found a good representative in Mr. Anson. That the dramatic education of the people is in progress may be proved by the felt expediency that induces the management of all theatres to make choice of the best dramas for their various methods of illustration.

MR. AND MRS. HOWARD PAUL, who have just concluded a lengthened and prosperous engagement in Birmingham, are announced to give their comic and musical entertainment, "Patchwork," in Cheltenham on Friday evening next.

THE "REVUE DE PARIS."—A Paris correspondent of the *Cross* assures the readers of that journal that Count Hatzfeldt had no share whatever in the "suspension" of the *Revue de Paris*. He says that the proposition emanated exclusively from the Direction of Public Safety, and submitted direct to the Minister of the Interior on the day when the article against Prussia appeared. This denial, the origin and object of which is self evident, meets with no credit at this place. It is well known to all persons connected with the press, and having the slightest knowledge of literary police arrangements on both sides, that both Governments have come to such understanding in regard to all articles unpalatable to one or the other as will ensure repression without the necessity of application to that effect on the part of resident envoys. It is incontestable, meantime, that the clause of the Constitution guaranteeing freedom of the press in Prussia has become a dead letter, and that the arbitrary proceedings of the literary police, under the immediate command of the Home Minister, are more arbitrary, vexatious, and repressive than they were when the censorship was in full bloom.—*Letter from Berlin*.

FRANCE AND FRENCH POLITICS IN THE PRESENT DAY.—The present feeling in our days is to see on all sides only hopes baffled, illusions destroyed, and disappointments; and, in truth, all that we have seen and experienced is of a nature to give us a sad notion of social and human destiny. Where we had counted upon strength we have found weakness. A premature decay or a violent end has overtaken all that once promised us a long future. The greatest warriors have been vanquished; the wisest politicians have failed; the noblest institutions have been overthrown. We have lived in the midst of ruins. But the passionate love of science and of truth has not been weakened; the conquests of mind alone have remained durable, and the power of intellect has alone stood erect amid fallen greatness. It is a clear indication of the way by which we may always be sure of security and of solid success. France has more than once seen her fortune fall her in her aspirations towards a free government. Sad, but not disheartened, she has sought and found for a space in the strength of her moral activity other sources of gratification.—*M. Guizot's Speech at the French Institute*.

THE AUSTRIAN PAPER CURRENCY.—Advices from Vienna state that the stock of bullion in the Austrian Bank has reached £8,909,000, showing an augmentation of £185,000 during the month of January. Meanwhile a contraction of £525,000 has been effected in the note circulation, which now stands at £37,493,813. Steady progress is thus being made towards a position in which a resumption of specie payments may be ventured upon, but several months will still probably elapse before the specie in hand will amount to the safe proportion of one-third of the paper issues. Within the last half-year the bullion absorbed by the Austrian Bank from France and other countries has been equal to nearly £5,000,000.

At Hamburg the rate of discount has declined to 3½ per cent.

THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

MR. LABOUCHERE, the Colonial Secretary, has received the sanction of the House of Commons to appoint a Select Committee to inquire into and report upon the monopoly enjoyed by the Hudson's Bay Company over one-half of the North American Continent. It is a remarkable fact that the privileges of exclusive trade should be continued to an association having a capital of only £400,000, held by about 232 proprietors, after Government deemed it just and politic to extinguish the charter of the East India Company. So monstrous a grievance would not be tolerated for a single Session if the true state of the case were known to the constituencies. Many complaints have been made against Scottish landowners for shutting up the Highland glens, that they may amuse themselves with the sport of deer-stalking during a few weeks in the year; but what terms of censure are too strong to be applied to a company who retains millions of acres in the state of a wilderness that they may derive profit from selling the skins and furs of wild animals? It ought to be made known to the working classes of this country, who desire to improve their condition of emigrating to a British colony, that in the regions over which the Hudson's Bay Company exercise unlimited sway there are within the reach of industry 500,000 square miles richly endowed by nature, and capable of sustaining in comfort the whole population of the United Kingdom. It is true that in the districts proximate to the Arctic Circle life can only be sustained under perpetual hardship, but there is no necessity for man to seek a new home so far to the north. Experience has proved the extreme fertility of the land in the neighbourhood of the Red River, and thence to the frontiers of Canada, along the line of rivers and lakes which connect Lake Winnipeg with Lake Superior. Of that district Sir George Simpson speaks in the strongest language, as rich in the varied produce of the earth in its wild and uncultivated luxuriance. Of the country between Lake Winnipeg and Lake Superior, Sir Alexander MacKenzie says:—

There is not, perhaps, a finer country in the world for the residence of civilised man than that which occupies the space between Red River and Lake Superior; fish, venison, fowl, and wild rice are in great plenty; the fruits are strawberries, plums, cherries, hazelnuts, gooseberries, currants, raspberries, pears, &c.

Mr. James Edward Fitzgerald gives the following information:—

The Saskatchewan River is navigable for boats and canoes, almost from its source in the Rocky Mountains, throughout a course of 1400 miles, to the mouth, where it discharges itself into Lake Winnipeg. There is, it appears, but one rapid throughout the whole course, and this could readily be overcome. Along this magnificent river, then, is manifestly the highway to our possessions on the shores of the Pacific; and thus we have a communication opened which no other part of the continent possesses. With the exception of a few obstructions, which labour and ingenuity would soon overcome, there is water carriage the whole way from London to the Rocky Mountains; and the sources of the Saskatchewan on the one side, and of the Columbia on the other, are so close together, that Sir G. Simpson could fill his kettle for breakfast out of both at the same time. He says they are not above fourteen feet apart. It cannot but be obvious to all that there is a vast object to be gained by opening up the interior of the American continent, and securing, as soon as possible, an overland communication with the Pacific.

The forty-ninth parallel of latitude, running straight across the continent from the Lake of the Woods to Vancouver's Island, separates the British possessions in North America from those of the United States; and Vancouver would form the terminus of the great overland route from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean—an enterprise of the greatest importance, as the whole line would run through British territory; and without such a communication from Canada to the Pacific it is difficult to believe, knowing the spirit of annexation which animates our republican neighbours, that we can retain our rule over that portion of the North American continent known as the "Indian territories."

What obstructs the execution of such a work? Why do these naturally fertile lands remain sterile? How happens it that the steam-vessel does not navigate these noble lakes, or pass up and down these mighty rivers? Because it is the direct pecuniary interest of the Hudson's Bay Company to perpetuate the solitude that now exists, to retain the land in forest and in jungle, to exclude man and propagate wild beasts. All their anxiety centres in an annual supply of furs and peltries; and crops of corn on the fields and commercial steamers on lake and river are incompatible with the growth and extensions of beavers and squirrels, foxes and polecats. Hence, that they may reap dividends from their monopoly, 500,000 square miles of cultivable soil are retained in the condition of a wilderness. Sound policy would unite the whole country to Canada.

The company pretend to hold the territory by virtue of a charter from King Charles II., dated in the year 1670, in which he gave to certain individuals a huge tract of territory vaguely denominated "Rupert's Land," with the geography of which the Royal donor was unacquainted; and the company have interpreted the charter to mean a grant of all the countries the waters of which flow into Hudson's Bay. It is, however, denied that England had any legal title to the territory at the date of this conveyance. It was claimed by France in 1598, when Henry IV. in that year appointed the Marquis De La Roche Lieutenant-Governor of Canada, Hochelaga, Terres-neuves, Labrador, &c. In 1627 Cardinal Richelieu formed the "Company of New France," that is of Canada; and in 1632, by the Treaty of St. Germain en Laye, Charles I. of England resigned to Louis XIII. of France all his claims to the sovereignty of Acadia, and Canada generally, and particularly of Cape Breton, Quebec, and Port Royal. It is certain that the French Fur Company was established forty years before the Hudson's Bay Company; and it is said that their *voyageurs*, or hunters of furs and peltries, traversed the country north-west of the Canadas up to the Saskatchewan River. The Treaty of Ryswick, signed in 1697, conveyed, if not the whole, very nearly the whole, of the territory claimed by the company under the charter of 1670; and thus, even had their prior claims been well founded, they were extinguished by that treaty. The authority of Mr. Bancroft, the historian of the United States, ought to be decisive on this point. He writes thus:—

In America, France retained all Hudson's Bay, and all the places of which she was in possession at the beginning of the war; in other words, with the exception of the eastern moiety of Newfoundland, France retained the whole coast and adjacent islands from Maine to beyond Labrador and Hudson's Bay, besides Canada and the valley of the Mississippi.

It is then clear that, from the date of the Treaty of Ryswick, in 1697, down to the treaty of Utrecht, signed in 1714, the territories of Hudson's Bay remained in possession of the French. By the Treaty of Utrecht they were made over to England. These facts prove, beyond doubt or cavil, that these pretensions of the Hudson's Bay Company, based on the charter of 1670, are unfounded. Nor should it be forgotten that their original privileges were qualified by the condition of their attempting to discover a north-west passage into the Pacific Ocean, and that duty they grossly neglected.

Shall this company retain its monopoly in these days of Free-trade? We have seen that its whole capital is but £400,000, to develop the resources of one-half of the North American continent. They only employ one thousand white servants. All the imports and exports annually of the whole country east of the Rocky Mountains are contained in two ships of about 300 tons each; and two ships more are employed on the north-west coast. The Russian Fur Company are far more active, for they have in their service twelve armed vessels. We shall watch the proceedings of the Select Committee with deep interest; nor can we doubt that, in their report, they will disapprove of the renewal of the exclusive license to trade with the Indians, and recommend that the whole country be thrown open to the invigorating competition of unfettered enterprise.

THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.

THE exhibition of the works of British artists opened on Monday to the public. This being the first art-exhibition of the year is always to us fraught with pleasant anticipations. "Art," Hazlitt calls "Nature's second course;" here, however, it is a foretaste of the feast about to be provided for our fancy and imagination. The opening of this gallery to the involuntary prisoner in London during the winter is regarded very much as our country friends look upon the promise of the early blossom, and he seeks the sunny side of Pall-Mall with some such feelings as they go to look for the springing of the first snowdrop or the bursting of the earliest crocus. The present collection requires, we must confess, something adventitious to enhance its value and render us unmindful of its general mediocrity, but we welcome it for the earnest it gives of the rich May-wreath we shall have by-and-by.

That this exhibition is less exclusive and no longer an ante-room to the Royal Academy, as it was intended to be when established fifty years since, arises chiefly from there being now many other galleries where second-rate artists can exhibit, so that the average quality of this collection is deteriorated; and, consequently, first-rate men scarcely like to send even their second-rate works here. One consequence is that a great name in the catalogue by no means awakens the interest it might otherwise excite. In our remarks, therefore, we shall not exactly follow the order of precedence which fame has given the various contributors, but notice those pictures first which have the most novel interest—which will furnish subjects for conversation—in fine, give the "news" of the Exhibition.

The picture, then, displaying most invention is, perhaps, "Molière Reading his Comedies to his Housekeeper" (458), by Mr. Hall. Boileau tells us that Molière used to read his comedies and farces to La Forêt, his housekeeper (whom he selected from his goodly train of domestics for her good sense and judgment), and when he perceived that certain laughable situations did not excite her hilarity he altered or erased them, having remarked that such passages never had any success. In the picture Molière has just read a passage which has thrown the worthy housekeeper into so violent a fit of laughter that she is obliged to hold her sides, and it threatens to destroy the prim propriety of her stiffly starched cap, &c. She is altogether a very quaint figure with her various appointments and official bunch of keys. The sly delight of Molière, and the domestics stealthily listening at the door, are equally felicitous. Breadth is somewhat sacrificed in the amount of individualised detail, but the accessories are of the period, and well and carefully painted. This artist's amusing picture of last year, "Swift and the Messenger," may be remembered, but this is a considerable advance.

"The Plant Hour" (180), by Mr. Frith, R.A., represents *Desdemona* giving the modest hint, upon hearing *Othello's* story, which first gave him hope. The intensity of passion with which the Moor leans forward and gazes with suspended breath into the downcast eyes, trying to read in them the depth of meaning he scarce dares attach to the words he hears, is very happily expressed.

In "A Regiment of Royalist Cavalry at the Battle of Edgehill" (76) Mr. Gilbert has surpassed all his recent efforts. The spectator (at the proper distance) cannot fail to appreciate how cleverly the figures are subdued in force, from the rich group of trumpeters and kettle-drummers on the left, whose bold impasto bring them startlingly forward, to the most indistinct figure in the distance, through an immense number of intermediate gradations marked with fine feeling for aerial perspective. The soldiers' expectancy of the impending order to charge is also admirably conveyed.

Mr. Louis Haghe gives us a party of cavaliers and ladies seated at an old-fashioned easement, through which a chequered sunbeam pours after struggling through the surrounding foliage. Each one of the group is engaged singing, playing, chatting, or flirting, and the artist has given the picture the appropriate title of "Sunny Hours" (2).

Mr. E. A. Goodall presents us some fruits of his recent journey to the Crimea. In No. 32—a view in Constantinople—there is a rich flush of Eastern colour mantling over the scene; and in a larger picture, "The Fish-market, Rome" (90), there is some fine Southern suffused light. Mr. Ruskin makes Turner's painting of a fish in one of his pictures the first evidence of his sense of colour, and here we might make Mr. Goodall's fishes with their opalescent tints a touchstone for him in that particular. The old brick wall, with its stucco scaling off, was evidently painted on the spot.

Mr. H. Weigall sends from Rome a painting (No. 443), with a quotation from Dante, which, paraphrased in plain English, expresses the sentiment that "there is no more bitter ingredient in the cup of misery than the remembrance of a happier time." To illustrate which this promising young artist has painted a female figure of that noble type which one likes to imagine was ancient Roman. She has sought in the sadness of evening some ivy-covered rag of ruin on the Campagna, and the thought of her country's former greatness contrasted with its present abjectness, causes a tear to start and tremble even in the fire of that haughty eye. The artist obtained his model probably from the Trastevere, at Rome, where one may now occasionally see such forms, and our readers will remember that the Trasteverini cherish the notion that they are direct descendants from the ancient Romans. This, therefore, makes the emotion of the figure the more touching and probable. "A Water-Carrier of Cervara" (434) and "Corinne" (42), by the same artist, are well worthy of attention.

Apropos of Romans, Mr. Buckner sends a "Roman Boy" (348), very sweet in expression, and the long silken fringes of eyelashes are true enough, but otherwise there is little of local character or even of actual out-of-door nature. It has too much of the mere conventional prettiness of fashionable portrait-painting. In amusing contrast to this is the very unsophisticated "Italian Boy" (358) of Mr. George Landseer. In another picture by Mr. Buckner, "The Pet Rabbit" (22), we find the artist much more at home, containing as it does three portraits. The composition is strictly *en règle*, and the style of portraiture founded on the best authorities.

"Rain Clearing Off" (82), by Mr. Dawson, has some striking natural effect. The earth is quivering in the warm exhalations from the recent rain; the water trembles from the pattering, which has broken its surface into small dancing wavelets; and the leaves reflect a thousand watery twinkling lights as they catch the cool rays from the azure opening in the sky. We can only object that the retiring cloudbank looks too much like a distant mountain.

Mr. Fisher, in his picture of "Norma" (486), is ambitious in attempting to represent such intensity of passion. His work contains, however, indications of high qualities. Some artists are above advice; but we intend anything but being uncomplimentary when we suggest that the lips of "Norma" are scarcely retracted enough to express the writhing of her agony. Some very apposite remarks upon the importance of this retraction of the lips in expression may be found in Sir C. Bell's "Anatomy of Expression." Perhaps, also, the mastoid muscle of the neck is a little too prominent—the head being thrown back. We expect still better things from Mr. Fisher.

A painting (No. 255) by Mr. Wolf shows extraordinarily close observation of nature. Its subject is a "covey" of grouse seeking shelter and warmth under a stunted shrub, the ground being covered with snow. All the objects visible have a peculiar stark distinctness which is very noticeable sometimes in severely cold weather, especially when seen near and against the spotless snow. The nestling of the birds, their watchful or half-closed and peering eyes, and the hardy goldfinches still busily hopping about, are all astonishingly true to nature.

Mr. Jutsum is as fresh and clear in atmosphere as ever; as pure in colour, and as thoroughly English in character. Such a piece of greenery as his "Hayfield" (197), with its green swaths, its transparent tints of air, and its sea of distance, is quite refreshing after the brown horrors which used to be ticketed, "English Landscapes." "The Devonshire Coast" (3), by the same artist, is enough to improve one's health even to look at.

Mr. Johnson's "Amalfi" (310) is a very forcible representation of that bold and precipitous coast, gradually eaten away by the hungry waves, which formed, together with the surrounding mountains, the great defence of the once-flourishing and powerful mediæval Republic. There is some capital painting full of promise in "Lunching Scene in the Highlands" (26), by Mr. Bottomley. The colour is good, and the freedom of handling imitative of the hair of the dogs' coats is very suggestive.

Mr. Duncan has given us one of the gallant tough old-fashioned sea-fights—the action between the frigate *Penelope* and the French

national ship *Guillaume Tell* (75). We regret that Mr. Duncan could not find an equally stirring incident in our more recent naval annals; but we fear he could not.

Mr. Telbin shows great command over the resources of his palette and extreme vigour of manipulation. Some of his effects in "Venice" (452) are quite Turner-esque in their beautiful passages of colour.

Mr. Dillon's picture, "The Colossal Pair, Thebes" (1), will not fail to attract attention. One of these Colossi is the celebrated vocal statue of Memnon. It has now, however, no utterance, real or imaginary, for the sun has sunk behind the distant hills. It seems, indeed, never to have welcomed him or mourned his departure, one only of the innumerable days in the three thousand years of its existence; but to be, on the contrary, the very type of eternal silence and death. The camel's (?) skeleton in the foreground, the wide desolation of the desert, the long murky shadows gradually rising, all heighten this effect. The only ray of hope seems to emanate from one bright star shining clearly in the dark blue sky. Another picture by Mr. Dillon, "A Scene in Cairo" (260), did not please us so much, chiefly in respect to its horny colouring. Surely the grand Cairo of the Caliphs has a brighter sun than this, and is even now something more picturesque and animated!

"Beautiful in Death" (58)—a dead peacock, by Mr. Lance—is a feat of imitative skill which the artist has often performed. One cannot, however, help admiring afresh the patient and faithful rendering of the gradual rise of the rich flood of feathers from where they closely overlap each other, like fish-scales, to where the green eyes begin to peep out; and thence to the fully-expanded feather, wantonly waving its green and orange light, and radiating its golden filaments. "Fruit" (109) by the same painter, is also, as usual, gorgeous and rich in colour, massive and forcible in effect. By Mr. Duffield there is, too, a picture of "Fruit" (208), of rare excellence.

While speaking of still-life we must not forget Miss Mutrie's "Cactus, &c." (295). There is a story of Titian—too poetical, though, we fear, to be true—that, when a mere child, he commenced painting by expressing the juice from flowers for his first colours. Miss Mutrie, however, must, we think, have extracted from the great Mexican cactus its very blood to have realised its flaming intensity so perfectly. It "kills" outright, as artists express it, all the unlucky pictures in its vicinity, or makes them look very sickly and feeble.

Mr. Cooke, A.R.A., contributes several little views in Italy and Venice, painted with more or less finish; but some of the latter are as clear and truthful as Canaletti, and resembling him also in tone. There are a few more works, chiefly landscapes, which have equal claims upon our attention, but want of space compels us to defer further remarks till next week.

SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER-COLOURS.—We have the satisfaction to learn that, on Monday last, Mr. Samuel Read (with whose picturesque drawings our readers are familiar) was elected a member of the Society of Painters in Water-Colours.

THE HAUNTS OF LOVE.

A VALENTINE.

THE wintry winds have breathed their last, New songs are sung in the caves; Old snows along the roof-tree melt, Feeding the unborn leaves: A soul of gladness, banished long, Breathes out from glade and glen; And Love, the Spirit, glides abroad, Haunting the paths of men.	The fretted boughs in forests hoo No more in angry seeming Lash the dead silence into storm; They mark his radiance stream- ing: A quickened life of stirring leaves On all the branches broods; Sweet rivers flood their sapless veins, For Love is in the woods!
I dare not meet that face divine Alone, where mortals throng; Clasp thine unsullied hand in mine, Then shall my soul be strong. We two upon his steps will steal, By moor and tangled maze, Nor leave one haunt of Love un- trod, Through all his spirit-ways.	In ocean's bed the raging seas Strong in their stormy will, Sink, awed before his mighty wing They hear him, and are still: With heaving bosom, rapt and mute, The charmed waters sleep They feel his power through all their tides, For Love is on the deep!
There beats no heart in nature's world I ut owes him tender duty; No spot of all the earth but owns The magic of his beauty: Where dwells the eagle, mountain- born, His voice the upland thrills; The cloudlands roll beneath his feet, For Love is on the hills!	But closer dwells in human hearts The all-immortal spirit; There, clothed in youth eternal, lives The Love we all inherit: Quits he the mountain eagle's haunt, Leaves he the forest bare, Yields he the wild waves to their will, We'll seek, and find him there!

E. L. HERVEY.

THE ALLEGED RUSSIAN NOTE ON THE AFFAIR WITH PERSIA.—*Le Nord*, which speaks with some authority upon matters involving the policy of the Russian Government, says:—"Certain journals have pretended, during the last few days, that the Russian Government has addressed to its representatives at foreign Courts a circular note relative to the affairs of Persia. As for such a circular note, it does not exist. We do not certainly mean to say, that the Cabinet of St. Petersburg may not have spoken of that matter, as of many other matters, in its ordinary diplomatic correspondence, or that it may not have expressed the view which it takes of that question. A partial or entire communication of these despatches may have been made to the Cabinets which are interested in the question, by the Russian representatives who are accredited to them; but as for a circular note, setting forth a plan of conduct and a fixed decision, there has been no such thing."

MR. HART, THE AMERICAN SCULPTOR, AND HIS INVENTIONS.

THE public is well acquainted with the name and the works of Mr. Power, who is now located in Florence, and whose admirable busts are considered superior to those of Bartolini, his predecessor in the Tuscan capital; to say nothing of the "Greek Slave," and other works of an ideal character. There is another American sculptor now amongst us, of almost equal eminence—a man uniting conceptions of truth and grace in his profession with powers of mechanical ingenuity that reach far beyond the limits of the ordinary sphere of the artist.

Mr. Hart was born in Clarke County, Kentucky, and has sprung from a race of hardy backwoodsmen, who, in that region, have none of the division of labour which exists in Europe or in the more settled portion of the Atlantic seaboard. Able and willing to turn his hand to anything, Mr. Hart practised successively agriculture, carpentry, turning, brassfounding, and, subsequently, drawing and sculpture; so that he is not only an artist, but a mechanic, practical and inventive, and a very ingenious one. When we add that his leisure time, instead of being spent at the tavern, as is usual in those woodland communities, was devoted to the highest departments of literature—poetry and ethics—our readers will perceive that we are describing no ordinary man. From Clarke County Mr. Hart proceeded to Lexington, which became his second home; and it was from here that his fame gradually spread over all the Union. He was selected by his fellow-countrymen to execute the bust of General Jackson, the most popular man in the Union since Jefferson; and, on Mr. Hart's departure for Italy, Henry Clay sent him a sort of moral passport addressed to all the Americans in Europe, highly eulogistic of his genius and personal character. It may well be believed that the six years spent in Italy were not lost on a man of his genius.

As he advanced in the practice of his art he conceived the idea of

overcoming by mechanical means two of the greatest difficulties that beset the sculptor—that of poising from the first every statue in embryo so as confidently to relate all the lines to the centre of gravity; and secondly, even in busts, in which the laws of gravity do not require so much study, to determine the masses in an easy and certain manner, so as to effect a great saving in time. The admirable works that Mr. Hart has produced in half the usual time are a proof that he has succeeded in this object.

In order to make our readers understand the nature of this invention we may state, first of all, that a framework is applied to any part of the body; that for the face, for instance, is in the form of a large mask, through which are perforated blunt pieces of iron like the needles of a compass. These needles, movable at will, are intended to fathom the depth of space from the mask to all the protuberances and sinuosities of the human face, such as the point of the nose, the bridge of the nose, eyebrows, and chin, down to the hollowest parts of the eye. These needles being blunt give no inconvenience to the skin. By a turnscrew each can be fixed in due relation to its neighbour perfectly indicative of the sinuosities of the human face, and, when completed, can be withdrawn as conveniently as a door opened and shut on its hinges.

But, in order to effect this very delicate operation, the sitter must not only be perfectly at his ease and comfortably placed, but the artist must also be secure of his immobility. This is managed in an equally ingenious manner by a mechanical chair, every portion of which can be elevated or depressed, closed or expanded, so as perfectly to fit the sitter, be he Daniel Lambert or the living skeleton. The principle of this machine can be applied to any part of the human body. A strongly-developed shoulder-blade or a genuflexion corded with strong muscle can be taken as easily as a face. Once the figure poised, any number of points may be taken, showing the exact relation of each to every other point of the human form, and the whole in relation to gravity.

Mr. Hart adopts one hundred and eighty points, but, the principle once evident, they may be increased, and, when the sitter is relieved from the perfectly-fitting cuirass of blunt needles, the space down to the surface of the living figure is for a certain distance filled up with clay. Thus, the undulations are obtained with mathematical precision, the basis is certain, and established at once. But great exception has been taken by the Italian sculptors to this invention, on the ground that it attempts to supersede art by mechanical invention. This is, however, not the case; all the most delicate art of the sculptor in seizing the evanescent elixir of expression comes afterwards, and has the fullest scope that the most transcendent idealist can desire. Such an invention, by most materially abridging labour, will enable sculpture to be more generally used, and the sculptor to employ on elevation of expression time which has been hitherto expended in establishing the relation of the masses to each other by the mere guesswork of the eye. Nothing, in our opinion, can be more absurd than this outcry against the marriage of mechanics with art. It is condemned by all that we know of art-history. John Van Eyck, who first made effective the use of drying oils, was at the same time the first Flemish artist of his age; and, if Leonardo was a great hydraulic engineer, he was in expression as an artist surpassed by none of his contemporaries and equalled by only one of his successors.

Nor can we omit in conclusion giving, as nearly as we can express it in our own language, the opinion of a great living artist on this invention, which perfectly agrees with what we have already laid down. "If the Creator, as is admitted, has seen proper to express all the character which the sculptor can give to his works through form alone in the human body, whatever means may be employed more perfectly to render that form is likely to realise the most accurate expression and afford a basis for the highest ideal."

A specimen of Mr. Hart's powers is to be seen at Messrs. Graves—a female figure of great elegance and refinement; the anatomy of the breast, such as in the first cartilage of the thorax, showing a science in which the antique was not always adept. But we do not think the statue well named. *La Penserosa* suggests a more unconscious absorption in thought than we find here. To the bust of Dr. Southwood Smith exhibited at Lord Shaftesbury's had been paid the tribute of a recognition of great excellence and truth; and our readers will not be displeased at our quoting the lines of Mr. Leigh Hunt



THE DARIUS VASE, FOUND AT CANOSA.

which are to be inscribed on this memento of one of the most philanthropic men of his age:—

Ages will honour in their hearts enshrined
Thee, Southwood Smith, physician of mankind;
Bringer of air, light, health, into the home
Of the sick poor of happier times to come.

But to return to Mr. Hart after this digression, we are happy to learn that his invention is going through the office of patents in this country, and we trust that a man who has spent so much valuable time on a complicated machine will reap the pecuniary reward to which he is entitled. Without knowing the originals of his busts, we can vouch for the extraordinary air of vitality and individuality which they present.

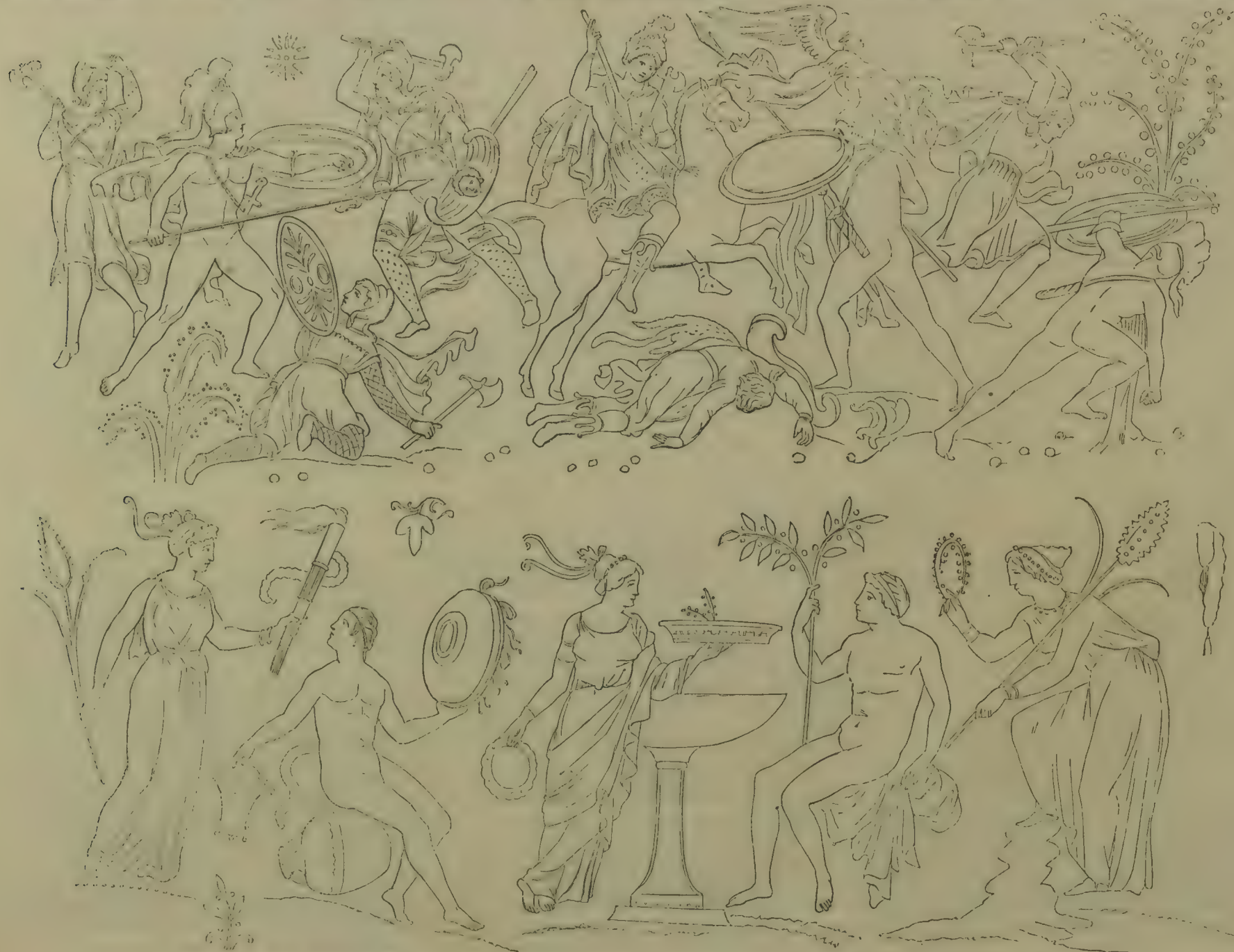
THE PAINTED VASE OF DARIUS FOUND AT CANOSA.

THIS exquisite work of antique art is of the form of the Apulian Amphora, and is the largest that has ever been discovered. It is made of the finest earth, and for its historical subject, in which we find fifty figures, is perfectly unique. Just under the neck of the vase is described the combat of the Greeks with the Amazons. Then follows a representation of the principal subject of the vase, the war of the East against the West—of civilisation against barbarism. The figures are distributed in three several series. In the first is Asia, under the form of a beautiful woman, who sends against Greece the Genius of War armed with burning torches. Greece takes refuge between Minerva and Jupiter, and the latter presents to her a young winged Victory, who announces to her the happy termination of the war. Then follow Apollo with a swan, and Diana on a stag—both protectors of Greece. Whilst this scene is passing on Olympus, in the second series of figures may be seen Darius, King of Kings, seated on a throne, with his robes and his tiara richly embroidered and jewelled. A guard, who bears a dagger or sword in one hand and a lance in the other, stands behind the throne in the act of guarding the great Monarch of Asia. On his right and left are seated the satraps, who form the grand council, which discusses whether the war is to be carried into Europe or not. One warrior, who is on foot in front of the King seems to counsel and persuade him to undertake such an enterprise. Immediately below, in the third series of figures, there is a satrap, who receives the tributes of the provinces and kingdoms of Asia in money, precious objects—such as paterae, candelabra, &c.—wherewith to defray the expenses of the war. These provinces are represented under the emblems of young and beautiful women.

In the posterior part of the vase is a figure of Bellerophon, who is seated on Pegasus and fights against the Chimæra. Many Asiatic youths, with staves in their hands, assist that hero to overcome the monster Pan. Juno and Neptune, protectors of Greece, are painted in the upper part of the scene.

Under the neck of the vase, and still in the posterior and less important part, are represented sacred mysteries. All the figures on this wonderful vase have their names inscribed above them. The design and the composition are of the most beautiful epoch of Magna Græcia. It was found during an excavation made by the Cav. Carlo Bonucci, Inspector-General of the Monuments of the Kingdom of Naples, in the Necropolis of Canosa. The site is close to the Ofanto (the Aufidus of the ancients), about four miles distant from the ruins of Canosa, where Hannibal obtained his great victory over the Romans, and it was within the walls of Canosa that the fugitives took refuge. The Pres. D. Salvatore Fenicia, of Ruvo, in Puglia, merits, together with Bonucci, the praise and the gratitude of the world, for it was at the suggestion of the former that the site was opened where this great archaeological discovery was made. In the same tomb where this vase was found, other rarer vases of classical merit were discovered; as also a complete armour of bronze, with which the deceased warrior was still clothed. We have only to add that the "Vase of Darius," the largest and the most remarkable in the world, forms one of the brightest ornaments of the Museo Borbonico, in Naples, and that it has never before been published.

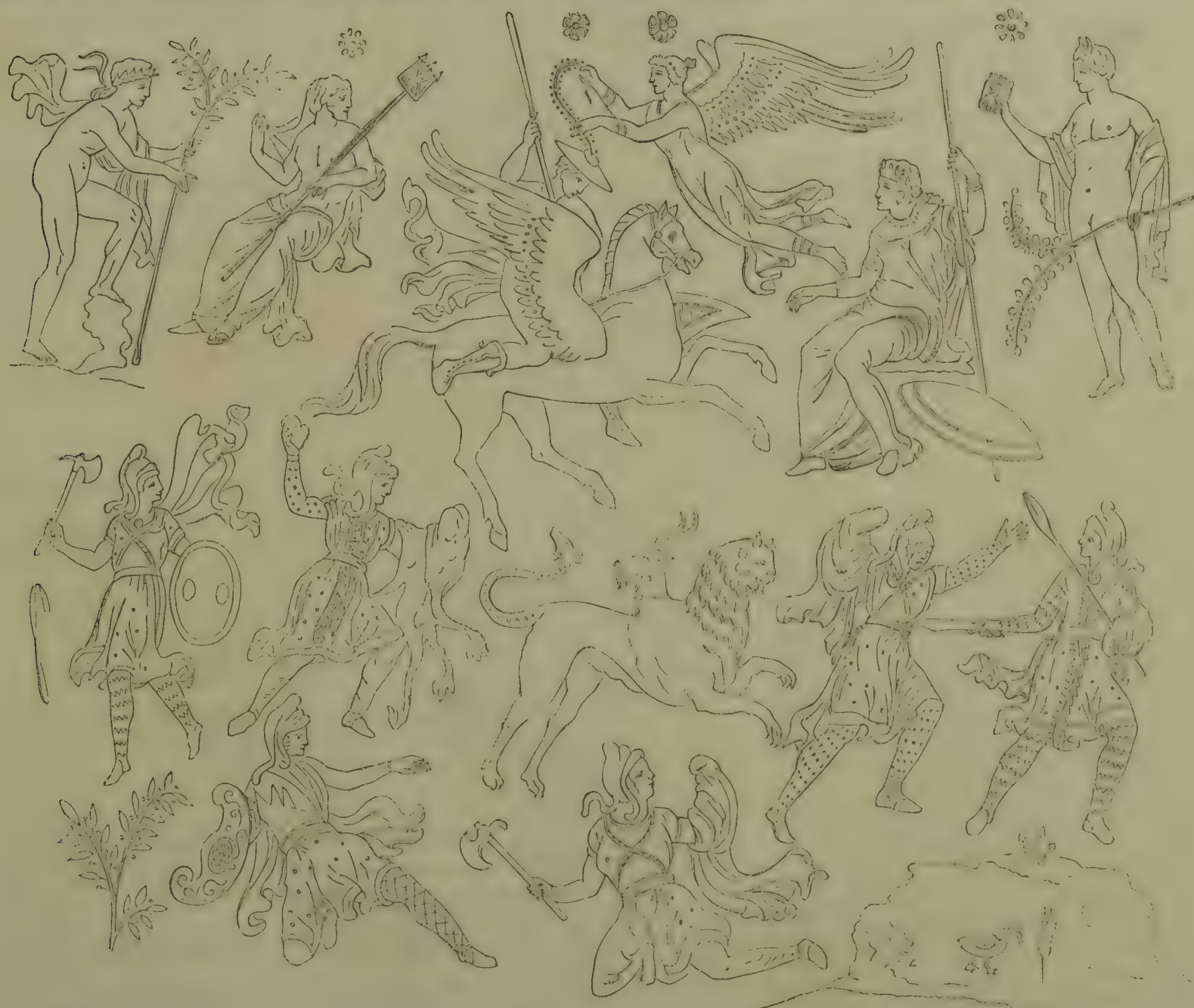
HENRY WRETFORD.



FIGURES FROM THE PAINTED VASE OF DARIUS. 1.—COMBAT OF THE GREEKS AND AMAZONS. 2.—THE WAR OF THE EAST AGAINST THE WEST.



FIGURES FROM THE PAINTED VASE OF DARIUS. 1.—PROCESSION OF APOLLO, DIANA, ETC. 2.—DARIUS ON HIS THRONE, AND ATTENDANTS. 3.—SATRAP RECEIVING TRIBUTES.



FIGURES FROM THE PAINTED VASE OF DARIUS. JUNO AND NEPTUNE, AND BELLEROPHON UPON PEGASUS. SACRED MYSTERIES, ETC.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)

NATIONAL SPORTS.

THE doors of the grand stand at Lincoln will be once more unlocked on Wednesday and Thursday next, and the racing of the 1897 season inaugurated under Mr. Johnson's auspices. The cross-country work comes off on the first day, a sport to which Tuesday and Wednesday will be duly devoted in Carmarthenshire. So far there has been but little betting on the great spring handicaps. Skirmisher—who is, he is remembered, a savage and unsuitable horse for any lad to ride (a thing many betting wisecracks seldom stop to think about)—has been backed for the Northamptonshire, and mentioned for the Great Northern; Minos is also first favourite among the "jumpers" for the Grand National (?) at Liverpool, where Mr. Topham's handicaps do not range higher than 8 st. 7 lb.; Leamington stands at the head of the Chester Cup odds, for which Mincepie, the miler, is quite out of favour; and Blink Bonny just contrives to keep the lead of the Derby favourites, and finds a feeble support at 15 to 1! It will be remembered how we warned every one after Wentworth's Newmarket victory last year that they were to pay no credence to a "bonnet" that horse for the Derby, as his make and slovenly style of winning that race palpably proved he could never get a Derby distance; and we believe that the public are now beginning to coincide with us in the distrust we expressed of Blink Bonny, owing to temper and lack of winter development, some six weeks ago. Weatherbit has gone down to Easly Abbey, where Emilius died, and Birdcatcher first won his stud fame. Hungerford and King of Trumps have retired in the ripeness of their age to the stud, after very hard working and chequered careers. A little brother to Schiedam has arrived at the Ravelite paddocks, where the Dutchman "is full," and Colonist and Tasmania show much more promise than any three-year-olds at Malton.

The hunting men have been relieved from their frost troubles much earlier than they expected. The Duke of Rutland's had a very nice gallop on Saturday, and a splendid day on Monday, killing four foxes. Lord Stamford's had also a capital thing on that day, so that Leicester-shire, at least, is making up for lost time. Melton was never so full of hunting men, and fifty scarlets left it on Tuesday morning to meet the Cotswolds at Tilton Wood. In fact, the good old times of this "little hunting metropolis" seem quite revived, under the Stamford, Forester, and Trollope dynasties.

Mr. Assheton Smith, who met, we believe, with a slight accident in his house, is better, and will be out shortly again. Hunting literature is very quiet, but we observe that the "Druid" has announced for next Tuesday a "hunting edition" of the "Post and the Paddock," in which the Leicestershire reminiscences of the renowned Dick Christian are a very leading feature. We trust that something will be done by foxhunters, in the shape of an annuity, for this fine old emperor of roughriders, who is in his seventy-eighth year. Now that his remarkable history is coming before the world, the subject has a good chance of being renewed in earnest. Dick is a hardy old fossil, knows not fear, and still trains hunters wonderfully well. In fact, he was to have gone down this October for seven months for that purpose (an engagement which he had regularly fulfilled there during 1841-55) if Lord Scarborough had not died. Hence he is at present living in Chapel-street, Melton, and occasionally getting a horse to tutor. Rather hard lines for an old man, who had had such a good home at Rufford so long.

Couriers are beginning to think about the Waterloo Cup, and the meetings of this month are rather shorn of their flyers, who are being kept in lavender for the plains of Alcantara, where Mr. Nightingale once more headed the poll on the election for judge. The meetings of the ensuing week are Bywell and Belsay, on Monday; Springkell, on Tuesday; Biggar Champion, on Tuesday, &c.; Limerick, on Tuesday and Wednesday; Hewell and Hindley, on Wednesday; Everley, on Wednesday, &c.; Baldoek (O.), on Thursday, &c.; and Underley, on Friday and Saturday. Stonehenge has just published the first part of a "Coursing Calendar and Review," which will appear regularly every four months. Speaking of greyhound stoniness, he says—"I believe there is considerable difficulty in getting sufficient stoniness; but in combination with the blood of Bugle, as in Riot, Ranter, Ajax, &c., and also in the descendants of Blue Light, who has the Bugle and Streamer blood combined, it appears that the two qualities are as far as possible presented together."

TATTERSALL'S.—THURSDAY.

LIVERPOOL STEEPLECHASE.—8 to 1 agst Minos (off), 11 to 1 agst Emigrant (off), 21 to 1 agst Little Charlie (t.), 20 to 1 agst Hopalong Star (t.), 20 to 1 agst Jean du Quesne (t.), 100 to 1 agst Eerie (t.), 20 to 1 agst Black Swan (off), 50 to 1 agst Sandboy (t.). NORTHAMPTONSHIRE STAKES.—7 to 1 agst Skirmisher (off), 14 to 1 agst Adamus (t.). TWO THOUSAND GUINEAS.—25 to 1 agst Drumour (taken and offered). CHESTER CUP.—14 to 1 agst Leamington (t.), 39 to 1 agst Schiedam (t.), 1000 to 15 agst Colwood (t.). DUNDEE.—14 to 1 agst Blink Bonny (off), 1000 to 35 agst Spring of Shillolagh (t.), 100 to 25 agst Lady Hawthorne (t.), 1000 to 15 agst Strathnaver (t.).

PRICE OF COUNTY VOTES.—Last week two rent-charges of £50 each, secured on the Collegiate School, Camberwell, were offered to public auction at the Mart, by Mr. Marsh—each of them conferring a vote for the Eastern Division of the county of Surrey, and paying £2 each per annum—sold at £60 the two.

THE AUTHOR OF "ORION."—Mr. R. H. Horne, the well-known author of the biographical sketches entitled "The Spirit of the Age," as well as of the remarkable epic, "Orion," and several other works, various in kind, but of more than average literary merit, having been an Australian for the last few years, offered himself as candidate for a seat in the Legislative Assembly of the province of Victoria, at the late general election. Although he did not succeed in becoming the representative of the electors of Rodney district, it is quite evident that he has a great many staunch friends there. We find in the *Melbourne Herald*, of Oct. 23, a report of the ovation with which he was honoured in the township of M'Yvor. A gentleman named Shakespeare, the proprietor of "a rich quartz reef," is named as one of his chief supporters. There was another quartz proprietor, Mr. Potter, who stood by him on the left hand, upon which the *Herald* says—"Such luck in lucra never yet fell to the lot of poet, ancient or modern, except in the case of Mr. Samuel Rogers, though Mr. Horne, between the two rich quartz reefers, might have turned amalgamator, and secured the gold on both sides."

THE LATE MR. T. SEDDON.—A meeting was held on Monday evening, the 2nd inst., at the residence of Mr. Holman Hunt, to express the sense entertained of the merits of the late artist, Mr. Thomas Seddon. The chair was taken by Lord Goderich; and the meeting was attended by the Hon. Arthur Gordon, M.P.; Mr. Ruskin, Prof. Donaldson, Mr. Tom Taylor, Mr. Anthony, Mr. Woolner, Mr. Alex. Munro, Mr. Vaux, Mr. Butterfield, Mr. Ford Brown, Mr. Dante Rossetti, Mr. Young (late Consul at Jerusalem), Mr. Vernon Lushington, the Rev. Mr. Maurice, and several other gentlemen. Lord Goderich commenced the proceedings by alluding to the high aim with which Mr. Seddon entered upon the treatment of Eastern landscape—not in the spirit of a mere picturesque artist, but in the hope of expressing the absolute truth of scenes hallowed by the most sacred associations, and to the genuine self-sacrificing devotion which his career evidenced, both in postponing the professional practice of art at an earlier period for the benefit of his family, and in afterwards undertaking two Oriental journeys, the former of which gave promise that it was forbidden to the latter to realise more completely. Mr. Ruskin moved, and Mr. Hunt seconded, the first resolution—"That an exhibition be held during the present season of the works left by the late Mr. Seddon, which shall be open to sale." The self-devotion of such men as Bellot, or those who lay down life for their native country in war, is recognised by public monuments; but these are not the only forms of self-devotion. A man like Mr. Seddon no less gave his life for a worthy cause: there was nothing but good in his aim; and this he pursued with a courage worthy of it. Mr. Tom Taylor moved the second resolution—"That out of the public subscription which it is proposed to raise 400 guineas be given for the purchase of Mr. Seddon's principal work, the oil-painting of Jerusalem, from his widow, for presentation to the National Gallery; and that if any surplus remain after the purchase and payment of the necessary expenses of the exhibition, &c., Mrs. Thomas Seddon's acceptance of it be requested." Mr. Taylor dwelt upon the value of art pursued, as Mr. Seddon pursued it, for the sake of truth; upon the resignation to the will of Providence with which he had entered upon a task both arduous and perilous; and upon the authentic excellence of the picture which it is proposed to purchase. The Society of Arts have consented to hold the exhibition from the 6th May to the end of the month.—Professor Donaldson, in seconding the motion, entered at some length into circumstances which exhibit the unaffected worth of Mr. Seddon's character, and his exertions for promoting art-education among the working classes—reading extracts from some of his letters, and speaking from an intimate knowledge of his family and career. Mr. Ruskin has consented to act as treasurer, and Mr. W. M. Rossetti, of 45, Upper Albany-street, as secretary. The committee includes, besides the gentlemen present at the meeting, Dr. Achard, Mr. Bruce, M.P.; the Hon. Richard Cavendish, Earl Grosvenor, M.P.; Mr. James Ferguson, Mr. George Godwin, Mr. Grove, Mr. Beresford Hope, Mr. W. Marshall, M.P.; Mr. Theodore Martin, Mr. Patmore, Canon Stanley, Mr. Alfred Tennyson, &c.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

AYLESBURY.—The election for the borough of Aylesbury took place on Monday, when Sir R. Bethell, the Attorney-General, was returned without opposition.

CLONMEL.—The election for this borough will take place on Monday next. The only candidate who has taken the field is Mr. Bagwell, of Marlfield; and it is probable that he will be unopposed.

DOWNPATRICK.—The polling-booths were opened on Wednesday morning at eight o'clock, and shortly after that hour the agent of Mr. Johnstone raised a technical objection to the registry of votes. The assessor stated that the objection could only be decided by a Committee of the House of Commons. One vote was then recorded for Mr. Johnstone. For Mr. Ker there were 137 votes polled.

GREENWICH.—The first hour of the polling, which took place on Tuesday, showed that Colonel Sleight had not the slightest chance. Sir W. Codrington took the lead from the beginning, and kept it up to the close of the poll, when the numbers were—Codrington, 2975; Sleight, 1543. A disturbance was apprehended amongst the "roughs" at one time. They asserted that they had been employed by Colonel Sleight's committee, and, not receiving any beer or payment, they went to the extent of pulling down the bar at the top of the Portland Tavern, the headquarters of Colonel Sleight's party. The police were called in, however, and prevented any further rioting.

HULL.—On Wednesday morning the election of a member of Parliament for this borough, consequent upon the elevation to the Bench of Sir W. H. Watson, took place in front of the Townhall, where at least 4000 people were assembled. Mr. Clay was the only candidate, and was returned; but considerable interest is manifested in the town as to whether the House of Commons will reject Mr. Clay as unqualified to sit in the present Parliament, on the ground that he was unseated for "bribery and corruption" in 1852.

NEWPORT (ISLE OF WIGHT).—On Tuesday Mr. Kennard was returned by a majority of 20 (271 to 251) over Mr. Sealey. In his speech on the hustings Mr. Kennard expressed his opinion that it was desirable to preserve our national defences in the highest state of efficiency and vigour, so that this country might maintain its proud position among nations.

SOUTHAMPTON.—The polling took place on Tuesday, and resulted in the return of Mr. T. M. Weguelin, the Governor of the Bank of England. Near the close of the poll the Liberals, who had reserved their votes for the purpose of giving them to either of the Liberal candidates who might require them, to prevent the success of a Tory, commenced polling for Mr. Weguelin, and his majority over Sir E. Butler steadily increased. The following was the return at the close:—Weguelin, 1000; Butler, 969; Andrews, 719.

WEST KENT.—The nomination for a representative of this division of the county of Kent is fixed to take place at noon on Monday next at Penenden-heath, near Maidstone. The polling will take place in the various districts on the following Thursday, and, by a recent Act of Parliament, will be confined to one day only.

COUNT DE MONTALEMBERT arrived at Brussels on Saturday in time to be present at the last moments of the Count F. de Merode, his father-in-law.

A MARRIAGE is to take place a few months hence (says the *Scotsman*) between Lady Susan Harriet Innes Ker, the elder daughter of the Duke of Roxburgh, and James, eldest son of Sir George Grant Suttie, of Preston-grange.

WE (Edinburgh *Courant*) understand Mr. Thackeray is to deliver his promised lecture here for the benefit of the widow of Mr. Angus B. Reach on Saturday, March 14.

CHURCH-RATES.—The amount received as Church-rates in England from Easter, 1893, to Easter, 1894, was, as reported to the Government, £465,000. The sum spent was £448,000; and the sum borrowed, £313,000.

MONETARY TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

(From our City Correspondent.)

OWING to a large arrival of gold from Australia, and to the great reduction in the Army and Navy Estimates, we have had a much firmer feeling in National Stocks this week, and prices have steadily advanced. The falling off in the demand for gold on Continental account, and the decline in the value of silver, have had their accustomed influence upon the large operators in the Funds, who have shown more confidence as respects the future; and, in the event of prices advancing much beyond those now quoted, they have a fair prospect of adjusting the next account with greater ease than the last, which was one of the heaviest ever recollected, representing, as it did, nearly 5,000,000, fully two-thirds of which were "carried over."

The approaching discussion on the Bank Charter is looked forward to with more than usual interest, but the pretty general impression in the City is, that, in consequence of the opposition already shown both by the Government and the Bank of England to any change in the present monetary system, it will lead to no reasonable result. We trust, however, that the Committee appointed by the House of Commons to inquire into the system in question will be guided by the wants and intelligence of the age, and not by exploded theories.

The purchasers of money Stock have considerably increased, and the time bargains have been both numerous and extensive. Of the £240,000 in gold received from Australia, about £200,000 has been sold to the Bank of England; but most of the remainder is expected to be sent to Paris. The shipments have been small, if we except about £120,000 forwarded to Rio. The decrease in them may be chiefly attributed to an abundant supply of silver, the prospect of large arrivals from Mexico, and to a further decline of 4d. per ounce in the quotations—the last price paid for bars being 61½d.

The Bank of England have intimated that those customers who bank exclusively with them may have the privilege of sending in long-dated bills for discount; and we understand that it is contemplated to allow interest on cash balances. These changes will, no doubt, bring an increased business to the Bank; but we may fairly assume that there will be more competition for paper elsewhere. This week the applications to the Bank for assistance have not been numerous, yet we have no decline in notice in the rates of discount. In Lombard-street short-dated bills have been taken at 5½ to 6 per cent.

The Consol Market was steady on Monday, and prices were firmly supported. The Three per Cents were done at 93½; Consols, for Money, 92½; 93; Ditto, for Account, 93½; New Three per Cents, 93½; New Two-and-a-Half per Cents, 76½; Long Annuities, 1855, 18½; India Bonds, 2s. 6d.; Exchequer Bills, par to 3s. prem.; Exchequer Bonds, 95½; Bank Stock was 216 and 217½; India Stock, 219. There was a firmer feeling on Tuesday, and the quotations were on the advance. Bank Stock marked 216 and 217½; India Stock, 220. The Reduced Three per Cents realised 93½; Three per Cent Consols, 92½ to 93½ for Money, and 93½ for the Account. New Three per Cents were 93½; Long Annuities, 1860, 2½; Ditto, 2½; Ditto, 1855, 18 3-16; India Bonds marked 1s. premium; Exchequer Bills, par to 3s. premium; Ditto, Bonds, 95½. Prices almost generally were higher on Wednesday, and the market was somewhat buoyant. Reduced Three per Cents marked 93½; Consols, for Money, 93½; Ditto, for Account, 93½; New Three per Cents, 93½; India Bonds, 2s. 6d. to par; Exchequer Bills, par to 3s. premium; Exchequer Bonds, 95½. There was a further improvement in the market on Thursday, both as regards the business done and the quotations, the rise in the latter being about ½ per cent. The Directors of the Bank of England made no change in the rate of discount. Consols for Money were 92½ up to 94; and for Account, 94 to 94½. The New Three per Cents were 91½ to 92½; and the Reduced, 93½ to 94½. Bank Stock was steady, at 217. Exchequer Bills realised par to 3s. prem.; and Exchequer Bonds, 95½.

There has been an increased business doing in most Foreign Securities, and prices have had an upward tendency. Transactions have taken place in Danish Three per Cents at 85; Ecuador, New Consolidated, 148; Granada, New Active, Two-and-a-Quarter per Cents, 22½; Greek Bonds, 6½; Mexican Three per Cents, 21½; Portuguese Three per Cents, 44½; Sardinian Five per Cents, 90½; Turkish Six per Cents, 93½; Turkish Four per Cents, Guaranteed, 100½ ex div.; Spanish Three per Cents, 40; Spanish New Deferred, 24; Ditto, Committee's Certificate of Coupon, 6½ per cent; Venezuela Four-and-a-Quarter per Cents, 37½; French Three per Cents, 68½; 12½; Belgian Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 9½ to 99½; Dutch Two-and-a-Half per Cents, 65½; Dutch Four per Cents, 98½; Buenos Ayres Six per Cents, 85½; Russian Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 98½; Austrian Five per Cents, 84; Brazilian Five per Cents, 100½; Ditto, Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 97½.

The annual statement of the Bank of France for 1896 has been published, from which we learn that the amount of commercial bills discounted in that year was £186,960,000; and of gold purchased, £32,572,000; the latter being productive of a loss in the shape of premiums of £448,000. The advances on Rentes, Shares, &c., were £35,280,000; and the total profits of the Bank were £992,342 sterling.

The Peel River Land and Mineral Company have declared a dividend of 1s. per share, free of Income-tax. All Joint-Stock Bank Shares have been very firm, and the following prices have been realised:—Australasia, 96; Bank of Egypt, 18½; Bank of London, 56 ex div.; City, 66½; Colonial, 24½; London Chartered of Australia, 14½; Ditto, New, 18½; London and County, 31½; London Joint-Stock, 22 ex div.; London and Westminster, 47 ex div. and bonus; New South Wales, 42½; Oriental, 37; Ottoman, 13½; Union of London, 26½; and Western Bank of London, 41.

Miscellaneous Securities have been firm in price; but the business doing in them has not been extensive. East and West India Dock have marked 118; London, 100; Victoria, 19½; Australian Agricultural, 21½; Canada Company's Bonds, 134; Canada Government Six per Cents, 110½; Copper Miners of England, 33; London Omnibus, 31; National Discount Com-

pany, 5½; Ditto New, 5½; Peel River Land and Mineral, 2½; Peninsula and Oriental Steam, 66½; Royal Mail Steam, 63½; Van Diemen's Land, 14½; Berlin Waterworks, 5½; East London, 102 ex div.; Grand Junction, 75½; Ditto New, 31; Kent, 81; Lambeth, 95; West Middlesex, 93½ ex div.; Ditto, 2½ prem. ex div.

The Railway Market has been very firm, and the quotations have been on the advance. The following are the official closing money prices on Thursday:—

ORDINARY SHARES AND STOCKS.—Ambergate, Nottingham, and Boston, 4½; Caledonian, 4½; East Anglian, 19; Eastern Counties, 9½; East Lancashire, 97; Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee, 31½; Great Northern, 93½; Ditto, B Stock, 124½; Lancaster and Carlisle, 70; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 95½; London and Brighton, 107½; London and North-Western, 106½; Ditto, Eighth, 11½; London and South-Western, 107½; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 35; Midland, 82½; North British, 40½; North-Eastern (Berwick), 65; Ditto, Extension, 19½; Ditto, York, 61½; North Staffordshire, 12½; Scottish North-Eastern—Midland Stock, 72; South-Eastern, 75; South Yorkshire and River Dun, 13.

PREFERENCE SHARES.—Great Northern Four-and-a-Half per Cent, 104½; Ditto Five per Cent, 63½; Great Western—Chester Shares, 15; London and Brighton New Six per Cents, 137; Midland Consolidated, 137½.

BRITISH POSSESSIONS.—Ceylon B Shares, 2; East Indian, 110½; Ditto C Shares, 17; Grand Trunk of Canada, 50½; Great Indian Peninsula, 21½; Great Western of Canada, 25; Ditto, New, 103.

FOREIGN.—Antwerp and Rotterdam, 5½; Dutch Rhenish, 12½; Euphrates Valley, ½ prem.; Great Luxembourg, 6½.

Most Mining Shares have been firm. On Thursday Alfred Consols were done at 22½; Great Wheel Alfred, 11½; Great Wheel Vor, 6½; and Port Phillip, 4.

THE MARKETS.

CORN-EXCHANGE, Feb. 9.—Only a moderate supply of English wheat, in very poor condition, was on sale in to-day's market. For all kinds we had a slow inquiry, at last Monday's quotations. With foreign wheat we were well supplied, and the business doing in it was comparatively limited, on former terms. Floating cargoes of grain commanded very little attention. The finest malting barley was steady, at full quotations; but inferior parcels were dull. Malt sold slowly, at late rates. There was a moderate inquiry for oats, yet prices were the turn in favour of buyers. Both beans and peas moved off slowly, at 1s. per quarter less money. The flour trade was heavy, and town-made parcels declined 3s. per 40 lbs.

Feb. 11.—The supplies of most kinds of produce here to-day were only moderate, yet the general demand was in a sluggish state, at Monday's quotations. English.—Wheat, Essex and Kent, red, 48s. to 60s.; ditto, white, 50s. to 68s.; Norfolk and Suffolk, red, 48s. to 60s.; ryegrass, 31s. to 38s.; grinding barley, 30s. to 32s.; distilling ditto, 31s. to 38s.; mashing ditto, 27s. to 40s.; Lincoln and Norfolk, malt, 65s. to 75s.; brown ditto, 62s. to 68s.; Kingston and Ware, 68s. to 75s.; Chevalier, 75s. to 77s.; Yorkshire and Lincolnshire feed oats, 25s. to 28s.; potato ditto, 25s. to 32s.; Youghal and Cork, black, 20s. to 25s.; ditto, white, 21s. to 25s.; tick beans, 32s. to 35s.; grey peas, 37s. to 38s.; maples, 30s. to 40s.; white, 38s. to 40s.; boilers, 20s. to 42s. per quarter. Town-made flour, 51s. to 57s.; Suffolk, 40s. to 45s.; Stockton and Yorkshire, 41s. to 42s. per 280 lb.; American flour, 30s. to 36s. per barrel.

Needs.—Linedseed is in good request, and again dearer. Cakes are quite as dear as last week. Other articles command full quotations.

Linedseed, English sowing, 71s. to 78s.; Mediterranean and Odessa, 68s. to 72s.; hempseed, 42s. to 45s. per quarter. Coriander, 20s. to 24s. per cwt. Brown mustard seed, 20s. to 22s.; ditto, white, 8s. to 12s.; turps, 12s. to 16s. per bushel. English rapeseed, 80s. to 84s. per quarter. Linedseed cakes, English, £11 0s. to £11 10s.; ditto, foreign, £11 0s. to £11 10s.; rape cakes, 15s. 10s. to 16s. per ton. Canary, 70s. to 75s. per quarter.

Bread.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 9d. to 9½d. of household ditto, 7½d. to 8½d. per 4lb. loaf.

Import Weekly Averages.—Wheat, 56s. 6d.; barley, 45s. 9d.; oats, 23s.; rye, 39s. 3d.; beans, 39s. 6d.; peas, 38s. 10d.

The Six Weeks' Averages.—Wheat, 58s. 3d.; barley, 45s. 6d.; oats, 23s. 5d.; rye, 38s. 10d.; beans, 40s. 8d.; peas, 39s. 8d.

English Grain Sold Last Week.—Wheat, 91,420; barley, 19,977; oats, 16,341; rye, 53; beans, 470; peas, 2343 quarters.

Flax.—Our market is inactive, and prices are a shade lower than last week. Common sound congo has sold at 12½d. to 12½d. per lb. The stock and arrivals are extensive.

Sugar.—Fine grocery sugars have sold briskly, at very full prices, but damp parcels have commanded less attention. West India has realised 55s. to 56s.; Mauritius, 51s. 6d. to 55s.; Bengal, 48s. to 55s. 6d.; Madras, 42s. to 46s. per cwt. Floating cargoes of foreign have sold at full prices. It is noted goods have changed hands steadily at 85s. to 86s. per cwt.

Coffee.—Mocha has advanced 2s. to 2½d. per cwt., with an active inquiry. Good old native Ceylon is worth 57s. to 58s. per cwt. Other coffees are slightly improving in value.

Rice.—This article is in moderate request; yet, owing to the large supply pressing upon the market, prices are rather in favour of buyers.

Provisions.—There is a good demand for nearly all kinds of butter, and prices are on the advance. The best Irishland is worth 139s. to 132s. per cwt. In the value of bacon very little change has taken place. Other provisions rule about stationary.

Tallow.—P. Y. C. on the spot has sold as high as 67s. to 67½d. per cwt., at which quotation holders are very firm. Town tallow, 64s. 6d. ret. cash. The imports continue trifling.

Oils.—Linedseed oil, on the spot, has sold briskly, at 42s. per cwt. Other oils support last week's currency. Turpentine is dull. Spirits, 33s. 6d. to 35s.; and rough, 10s. 6d. per cwt.

Spirits.—The demand for rum has fallen off, and prices have given way 1s. per gallon. Proof Lowlands, 2s. 6d. per gallon. There is very little inquiry for brandy, the value of which is with difficulty supported. Malt spirit is dull, at 10s. 10d. per gallon.

Hay and Straw.—Meadow hay, £2 10s. to £4 0s.; clover ditto, £3 10s. to £3 5s.; and straw, £1 4s. to £1 8s. per load.

Cheese.—Tansfield Meqr. 3s. 9d.; West Riding Hartley, 13s. 9d.; Harton, 16s. 6d.; Hutton, 18s. 6d.; Lambton, 18s. 6d.; and South Hutton, 18s. 3d. per lb.

Hops.—The show of samples is extensive, and about an average business is doing in most kinds, at full quotations.

Wool.—The public sales of colonial wool will commence on the 26th inst. Only about 25,000 bales will be offered. By private contract the demand is active, but there are no sellers except at an advance of 1d. to 2½d. per lb.

Potatoes.—The supplies are seasonably good, and the demand is steady, at from 70s. to 130s. per ton.

Metropolitan Cattle Market.—The arrivals of stock have been limited, and the trade generally has ruled firm, at very full prices.

Beef.—From 3s. 4d. to 5s. 6d.; mutton, 4s. to 5s. 6d.; veal, 3s. 10d. to 5s. 6d.; pork, 3s. 8d. to 5s. 6d.; per cwt., to sink the trade.

Neversgate and Leadhale.—Each kind of meat has sold steadily, as follows:—

Beef, from 3s. to 4s. 6d.; mutton, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 10d.; veal, 3s. 10d. to 5s. 6d.; pork, 3s. 8d. to 5s. 6d. per cwt., by the carcass.

ROBERT HERBERT.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, FEB. 6.

WAR-OFFICE, FEB. 6.

1st Dragoon Guards: Capt. J. R. S. Sayer to be Major; Lieut. T. J. Mitchell to be Captain. 11th Light Dragoons: Cornet H. J. Wilkin to be Lieutenant; A. P. Garnett to be Cornet. 13th: Lieut. J. Dearden to be Captain; Capt. F. D. Maclean to be Captain; Surg. R. C. Anderson to be Surgeon. 2nd Foot: Ensign H. Gratton to be Lieutenant. 18th: Lieut. R. P. Bishop to be Instructor of Musketry. 21st: Ensign R. Cook to be Lieutenant. 22nd: Capt. W. D. Prowse to be Captain. 43rd: Brevet Lieut.-Colonel G. Talbot to be Lieutenant-Colonel; Brevet Major D. C. Greene to be Major; Lieut. H. Robinson to be Captain; Serg.-Major G. Garland to be Ensign; Ensign G. Garland to be Adjutant. 8th: A. W. McKeanzie to be Paymaster.

DEPUTY BATTALIONS.—Paymasters E. Mc Mullin and J. D. Tragers to be Paymasters. UNATTACHED.—Major and Brevet Lieut.-Colonel R. Grove and Captain and Brevet Major R. Parnham to have their Brevet Rank converted into Substantive Rank. BREVET.—Brevet Capt. W. H. Leith to be Major-General; Lieut.-Colonel T. M. Huddipeth to be Colonel; Lieut. Major F. A. Yule to be Lieutenant-Colonel; Capt. J. F. Huddipeth to be Major; Lieut. Col. J. C. Leith to be Colonel in the Army; J. Leith, Esq., Acting Staff Officer of the 1st Division, to have the rank of Lieutenant; J. Leith, Esq., in North America, while on service; Major G. King, Brevet Major C. L. D'Aguiar, C. B., J. B. Lewis, R. E. W. Sibthorp, and Lieutenant-Colonels in the Army, Capt. W. Spence, J. J. Wood, to be Majors in the Army.

J. F. DALBY, Birmingham, scrivener. BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

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TUESDAY, FEB. 10.

WAR-OFFICE, FEB. 10.

Royal Artillery: Lieut.-Col. H. J. Morris to be Colonel; Capt. J. Travers to be Lieutenant-Colonel; 2nd Lt. W. B. Saunders to be Captain; Lieut. C. B. Le Mesurier to be Second Captain. BREVET.—Col. T. G. Higgins to be Major-General; Lieut.-Colonels C. H. Burnaby and J. G. Walker to be Colonels.

BREVET.—Voyal Marines: Col. Second Commandant S. Hawkins to be Major-General; Lieut.-Col. P. B. Nollath to be Colonel; Capt. W. L. Sayer to be Major.

FEB. 6.

Royal Marines: Lieut.-Gen. T. A. Parke, C.B., to be General; Major-Gen. J. R. Coryton to be Lieutenant-General; Col. Commandant J. A. Phillips to be Major-General.

BREVET.—Major-Gen. W. Ferguson to be Colonel in the Army; J. Ferguson, Esq., Acting Staff Officer of the 1st Division, to have the rank of Lieutenant; J. Ferguson, Esq., in North America, while on service; Major G. King, Brevet Major C. L. D'Aguiar, C. B., J. B. Lewis, R. E. W. Sibthorp, and Lieutenant-Colonels in the Army, Capt. W. Spence, J. J. Wood, to be Majors in the Army.

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 Great Saving.—Oat Bruisers, Chaff Cutters, Mangles, 50s.; Flour Mills, Farming Implements, 20s. per cent. lower.
 Back on Footing, 1s. 6d. Ditto, 20s. Making, 1s. post-free.
 WILDLAKE and CO., 118, Fenchurch-street.

Sale by Mr. Dew.—Carnarvonshire, North Wales.—Great and attractive SALE of the magnificent Assemblage of PROPERTY at BROOM HALL, accumulated during the last sixty years within this abode of taste and virtue: the whole selected at an enormous expense, and with great judgment, by the late ROWLAND JONES, Esq., deceased.

MR. WILLIAM DEW has the honour to announce that he has been instructed by the administrator to dispose of, by Public Competition (without reserve), on TUESDAY, the 24th day of FEBRUARY, 1857, at the above-named Mansion, at Twelve o'clock (Sundays excepted), at the above-named Mansion, distant three miles from the town of Pwllheli, ten from Portmadoc, and twenty from the Railway Terminus, Carnarvon.—The entire, vast, and splendid collection of objects of superior elegance and taste, forming at once the most extensive and costly accumulation that has but rarely been brought to the hammer, as well as the following forms a brief summary:—The Furniture comprises drawing-room and dining-room suites in mahogany and oak; rich Turkey and Brussels Carpets. The Bed-chambers are fitted up in a superior manner; winged and single Wardrobes; patent portable Water-closets, and every other requisite for the sleeping apartments. A large collection of valuable and celebrated Pictures, exhibiting many chefs-d'œuvre by Rubens, Holbein, Domenichino, Teniers, Garacci, Patel Watteau, Stork, &c.; beautifully-executed marble busts and statues; sumptuous Cabinets and Tables, of the choicest Florentine marble; the finest Japan Closets, and marquetrie, massively mounted in ormolu; ormolu Russian Chinoiserie and Musical Timepieces; self-acting Organs and Piano; noble Pier Glasses and Chandeliers. A superb assemblage of old bronzes, bronzes and statuettes; sumptuous Cabinets and Tables, of the choicest Florentine marble; the finest Japan Closets, and marquetrie, massively mounted in ormolu; ormolu Russian Chinoiserie and Musical Timepieces; self-acting Organs and Piano; noble Pier Glasses and Chandeliers. 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THE QUEEN'S THEATRE AND OPERA-HOUSE, EDINBURGH.

THE QUEEN'S THEATRE AND OPERA-HOUSE, EDINBURGH.

THIS newly-built theatre, designed by Mr. Bryce, is considered to be creditable to the taste and skill of the architect, both as regards the picturesque frontage of the building, and the commodious and convenient construction of the interior. The house is seated for about 1700, having three tiers of boxes and galleries. The front lines of the different tiers form a semicircle, with an ogee curve outwards; while the stage boxes between the Corinthian columns of the proscenium curve inwards, their line of vision embracing rather the front stage and the body of the house than the usual perspective of the scenery. There are two stage boxes on each side, from the omnibus box to the box crowning the arch of the pillars. The dress circle consists of open boxes, seated for 260; the second tier accommodates about 400; and the third circle consists of a capacious gallery, comfortably seated for above 600 persons. The stalls and pit, accommodating nearly 500, fill the

wide area below, along with the orchestra. From every part of the house a complete view of the stage is to be obtained, while from the great majority of the seats almost the whole house is to be seen. The adoption of the semicircular, instead of the horseshoe, form of the house greatly foreshortens the distance between the centre boxes and the stage, and thus enhances both the power of the voice and the effect of the scene. Indeed, from the furthest seat of the gallery the line of vision is perfect, and the actor or vocalist will be distinctly heard in every corner. The work of painting has been executed by Mr. D. R. Hay; and the fitting up of the dress circle, stalls, &c, has been intrusted to Messrs. Potts, Cairnie, and Ray.

The arrangements for the stage were intrusted to Messrs. Grieve, Telbin, and Co., London—the working department being conducted by Mr. Bare, who fitted up the theatre for her Majesty at Windsor. The proscenium curtain and the act drop have been painted by Mr. Grieve.

The Queen's Theatre has been leased from the shareholders by Mr. Black, whose management has been characterised by great spirit and enterprise.

THE NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS.

It would be difficult to point to any edifice, ancient or modern, in which the style and character of the architecture are more completely carried out than in the new Houses of Parliament. Every apartment and means of communication throughout the vast edifice has its characteristics of the Tudor palatial style, which Sir Charles Barry has adopted. We engrave two examples of this uniform adherence to design. First is a Vestibule communicating with the Library of the House of Commons. The door panels are filled with glass and brass trellis-work; and the side and upper windows are charged with armorial badges of the Red and White Roses and Portcullis. The second instance is one of the south end Committee-rooms in the river front of the Palace: it has a beautiful window, and a ceiling divided into compartments by deep mouldings, and somewhat Holbeinesque in character. The scene shows the form in which a Committee sits.



VESTIBULE TO THE LIBRARY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.



COMMITTEE-ROOM, HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SCENES IN THE DESERT.



NOONDAY SHELTER.

THE DESERT ROUTE.

(Continued from page 116.)

VII. NOONDAY SHELTER. VIII. WAYSIDE CAFE.

We are supposed now to have past El Arish—the Egyptian quarantine station, on the Syrian frontiers. The road before us still continues hot and dusty, though not quite so monotonous as heretofore; for every two hours or so we come upon a stump of trees and a wretched little village consisting of six or a dozen hovels, and almost invariably another village just opposite to it, and as far away as you can see upon the horizon. When that direful malady the plague used to be of frequent occurrence, then one or the other of these villages would be entirely deserted, and allotted for the residence or death-place of such unhappy creatures as were stricken. On the movements of these unfortunates a strict watch was kept from the other village. The people left food and water for the use of the sick at some distance; and such among the sufferers as were able fetched it for their use. The dying buried the dead; and the plague-village was desolate and deserted for many succeeding months. Here we come upon a wild son of the desert, who, together with his camel, is luxuriating in the

shade afforded by the hut and the palm-tree. Enveloped in his loose *meshlah* (cloak), he avails himself of the favourable opportunity offered for airing his dubiously-washed wearing apparel, which the good woman of the house has washed for him and hung out to dry on the roof of the house. This is the last village we encounter before arriving at Khan-Yennes, the Syrian frontier, from which the sanitary cordon extends to the sea on one side, and Hebron on the other. Here we meet with a group of guardians belonging to the establishment at Gaza, enjoying themselves at a wayside coffee-house (*caffenée*). The proprietor of the shop is amusing his guests with a tune on the Syrian banjo; the group of guardians are partaking of coffee and pipes; and one more on the alert than the others has discovered the approaching caravan of travellers, and is scrutinising it with the assistance of a veritable Dollond. This open cool *caffenée* is the favourite resort of native travellers; and the two camels standing in front of the house with their pack-saddles on proclaim the presence of other travellers besides those of our own caravan, which we have escorted safely from the outskirts of Grand Cairo to the Syrian frontiers; and there we must now bid adieu to them, leaving the dragoman and the guardians to battle the watch together, wrangling incessantly the whole way from Khan-Yennes to Gaza, where all this squabbling ter-

minates by the gates of the Quarantine being heavily closed and bolted upon the travellers, who remain in duration vile five days under the special charge of Doctor Gilbert Esperon, the medical officer under whose supervision this vast establishment has risen into existence.

RUINS OF CARTHAGE.—Accounts from Tunis announce that the Rev. Mr. Davis, who, a few months ago, obtained from the Bey permission to explore the ruins of Carthage under certain conditions, and who has been engaged during the last two months excavating in that locality under the auspices of the British Government and the Museum, has made some valuable discoveries. An Arab having found a piece of elegant mosaic, Mr. Davis was induced to direct his excavations to that spot, and his labours were rewarded by the discovery of the remains of an ancient building, which is believed to be the Palace of Dido. After cutting through two layers of flooring, which must have been laid down at lengthened intervals, he came on a most splendid piece of mosaic of many square yards in area, and in which were delineated two heads, each three feet high, supposed to be those of Dido and Juno; besides several graceful Eastern figures, and a number of elegant devices and ornaments. Of these very interesting relics we hope, by favour of the reverend antiquary, Mr. Davis, to be enabled to engrave specimens.



WAYSIDE CAFE.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

FRIVOLOUS SUITS.—Lord Brougham brought in a bill which he described as being intended to put a stop to frivolous suits, and establish courts of reconciliation.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.—The Earl of CLARENDON, in reply to Lord Lyndhurst, stated that under the terms of a recent firman the Turkish Divans were empowered to discuss the union of the Danubian Principalities, or any other question connected with the future administration of those provinces, in conformity with the ascertained wish of the population. He declined to express any opinion himself on that subject at present, or to lay on the table a copy of the firman, which had, he believed, been communicated confidentially to the Government.

THE WAR IN CHINA.—In answer to a series of interpellations from Lord Lyndhurst, the Earl of Derby, the Earl of Ellenborough, and other Peers, the Earl of CLARENDON promised to produce a variety of returns on correspondence relating to the late proceedings at Canton.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS.—MR. DISRAELI AND LORD PALMERSTON. —Mr. DISRAELI: I observed with regret—a regret shared, I am sure, by the entire House—that the noble Lord the First Minister of the Crown has not been in his place since the discussion on the Address (Hear, hear). I hope, therefore, his colleagues will be able to inform us whether there is any immediate prospect of the noble Lord being in his place (Hear, hear). —Sir G. GREY: I saw my noble friend yesterday, and he told me that he hoped to be in his place to-day. He is not here, I regret to say; but I have every reason to believe he will be here to-morrow (Hear, hear). —Mr. DISRAELI: I wish to state that in case the noble Lord is able to be in his place I will ask for the indulgent permission of the House, before the commencement of public business, to make some observations upon a contradiction which I received from him on the first evening of our meeting on a matter of great moment (Hear, hear).

THE BUDGET.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER announced that he intended to bring forward the annual Budget on Friday next.

THE WAR WITH PERSIA.—Mr. V. SMITH, in reply to Mr. Layard, stated that the Persian Ambassador in Paris was fully empowered to arrange all the questions now in dispute between his own Government and this country.

TRANSPORTATION.

Sir G. GREY moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the Act 16 and 17 Vic. c. 99, entitled "An Act to substitute in certain cases other punishment in lieu of transportation." After describing the circumstances under which the experiment of the ticket-of-leave and licensing systems had been tried, and the extent to which they were carried, the Home Secretary cited returns showing the operation of the present law. When the Act of 1853 was passed there were 9450 convicts under sentence of transportation. Of that number 1050 were transported to Western Australia; of the remaining 8400 not less than 7000 have been discharged on license up to the present time; about 1200 are employed at present at Bermuda and Gibraltar; and the number actually in this country remaining still under sentence of transportation, and who will receive tickets of leave in the course of the next few years, is about 500. It must be remembered, however, that the 1200 at Bermuda and Gibraltar will come back to England and receive their tickets of leave here. The number of licenses that have been revoked for misconduct is 468, but there is to be added to that number the licenses held by persons who have been reconvicted, and the term of whose sentence exceeds the original sentence under which they were lying, and in whose cases of course the revocation of the license can have no effect. That number is 583, and there are 95 who have been reported for misconduct, and into whose cases an investigation is being made. Taking these numbers altogether, and treating them as revocations of tickets of leave, we have a grand total of 1144, or about 16 per cent upon the whole number of persons to whom licenses have been granted. A great many schemes have been proposed for the employment of convicts, but the truth is that there are not convicts enough to do all the work in which they might be profitably engaged; the real difficulty is not what they are to do while working out their sentence, but what they are to do after it has expired. The Government believe it to be their duty to make use of every facility which exists for the removal of convicts from this country. Now, Western Australia is the only colony which at present is in a condition to receive convicts under sentence of transportation; and it has been shown that in future years 250 is the largest number which we can calculate sending abroad, owing to the small number of persons now sentenced to transportation. That is the rate at which we can supply convicts to a colony, and at the same time avail ourselves of those facilities recommended by the Committee. A great many witnesses, including the Governor, the Controller, Captain Henderson, Mr. Brown, Mr. Moore, Mr. Hew, and other men of property and influence in the colony, who were not only asked for their opinion, but were invited to deliberate upon the questions themselves, state that its natural capabilities are very great; it is very large in extent, its climate is good, it is almost entirely cut off from the rest of Australia; there are only three ports from which it is possible for convicts to escape; they cannot get across the land, and the ports are of a character that there would be no difficulty in guarding them; the country itself is a good producing country, growing good crops of wheat, barley, and potatoes; while the breed of horses is so excellent that they form a considerable item of export—being sent to India, where they are much esteemed; there is abundance of timber, of every growth, and suitable for any purpose; while, at the same time, large tracts of land are in the hands of private persons, so that there could be no want of employment for labour (Hear, hear). There have been large grants of land obtained by private individuals under the impression that the land must necessarily prove a source of wealth, but it has proved, without the means of cultivation, wholly valueless, and it is only after the convict labour has been obtained that it has begun to yield a profit. There is a belief that even now from 500 to 1000 convicts might be advantageously employed in Western Australia, and that probably that number might be sent out. But in the present state of the law the Government were unable to meet the demand from Western Australia for convict labour. Instead of 500 or 1000 convicts a year, they had only 250, and those chiefly of the object class. The question then arose whether, under section 6 of the Act of 1853, it was possible to send out convicts, previously sentenced to penal servitude, to Australia, as convicts under the labour system. It was referred to the law officers of the Crown, and they, after great doubt, arrived at the opinion that it was not competent for the Government to avail themselves of this enactment for that end. Hence the necessity for an alteration of the law relating to transportation. The changes which he proposed to introduce in the present bill were these:—First, to lengthen the term of sentences of penal servitude to an equal duration with that of the periods of transportation for which they were substituted; secondly, giving Judges a discretionary power to pass sentences of intermediate severity between those of ordinary imprisonment and the minimum of transportation; thirdly, allowing prisoners sentenced to penal servitude to be removed to certain colonies, a power which, he observed, would be exercised with great caution, but might, he considered, enable the Government to serve the colonies, and especially Western Australia, and to benefit the convicts who might be selected for removal to another sphere; fourthly, he proposed to continue the practice of mitigating sentences as a reward for good conduct in prison, but to restrict the range of their remission within much narrower limits than were now observed, while rendering the discharges, generally speaking, unconditional.

Sir J. PAKINGTON postponed all discussion on the general subject until the bill was before the House. He commented, however, upon the inconsistent and, as he considered, reckless mode in which the Crown's prerogative of mercy had been extended to convicts under sentence for different crimes, of which he gave several recent instances. It was, he contended, of the utmost importance to remove all uncertainty from the operation of the law as regarded the nature and the execution of the sentences passed upon prisoners at their conviction.

Mr. COLLIER recommended that all offenders, when again found guilty after two previous convictions, should be sentenced to imprisonment for life. He added various suggestions towards the establishment of a sound system of transportation and prison discipline.

Sir J. RAMSDEN approved of the plan outlined by the Home Secretary, but enlarged upon the necessity of rendering imprisonment more severely penal, and enforcing the principle of separate confinement.

Mr. ADDERLEY advised the Government to abrogate the ticket-of-leave system utterly and finally.

Mr. LABOUCHERE rejoiced to know that the convict question would be discussed with a strict respect to the interest of the colonies as well as of the mother country. He doubted whether transportation could any longer be justly considered a deterring punishment. Mere exile was not formidable when voluntarily undergone by so many thousands annually. As an outlet for the best classes of convicts, and a means of completing their reformation, and restoring them to the ranks of self-supporting individuals, the system was highly useful, if it could be found practicable. At present, however, he saw no other locality to which convicts could expediently be sent, excepting Western Australia, and stated reasons showing the unsuitability for that purpose of Vancouver's Island, the coasts of the Gulf of Carpentaria, or the Falkland Islands—each of which had been recommended by numerous advocates. Western Australia presented some peculiar characteristics, and seemed adapted to become a receptacle and asylum for transported criminals, though even there he believed that convicts could be sent only in limited numbers, and for a limited time.

Mr. BENTINCK insisted that transportation ought to be altogether abolished. Convicts, he thought, could be more safely kept and better managed in this country, where, also, their labour might be usefully employed.

Mr. MILNES preferred the plan of the Government, by which transportation, under an improved system, was still retained upon the criminal code.

After some remarks from Mr. Newdegate and Mr. Liddell, and a brief reply from Sir G. GREY, the motion was agreed to.

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.—Sir G. GREY then moved for leave to bring in another bill to facilitate the establishment of reformatory schools in England. The measure, he said, was not intended to interfere with the many excellent institutions of that character already existing, but to extend a principle which had been found to work so well. The provisions of his bill he added, would be simply permissive in character.—A brief conversation ensued, after which the motion was agreed to, and leave given to bring in the bill.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS.—The LORD CHANCELLOR called attention to the jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Courts. He described the present state of the law administered in those courts; and, after referring to considerable length to various reports presented and measures introduced for their reform, gave an outline of the principles on which he should himself propose to undertake that task, and sketched the new machinery he wished to substitute for the existing system in the three branches of testamentary jurisdiction, marriage and divorce, and Church discipline. The Lord Chancellor concluded by laying on the table three bills intended to carry out the reforms he had indicated.—The details of the proposed changes were discussed at considerable length by Lord Lyndhurst, Lord Campbell, the Bishop of Exeter, Lord Brougham, Lord Wensleydale, and the Bishop of Oxford. The bills were then read a first time.

IMPROVEMENT OF LEGISLATION.—The LORD CHANCELLOR moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the means of improving the manner and language of current legislation, which was agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

NEW MEMBERS.—The Attorney-General (Sir Richard Bethell), introduced by Mr. Hayter and Lord Mulgrave, took the oath and his seat for Aylesbury. Mr. Langworthy, introduced by Mr. Haldiff and Mr. Kershaw, also took the oath and his seat for Salford.

THE FRANCHISE.—Sir J. WALMSLEY gave notice that on Tuesday next he should move for a Select Committee to inquire into the best means of lessening the existing inequalities of the electoral system, and extending political privileges to a large class of persons now disfranchised.

SIR JOHN McNEIL AND COLONEL TULLOCH.—Mr. J. EWART asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether it was the intention of the Government to make any recognition of the services of Sir John McNeil and Colonel Tulloch in the Crimea? (Hear, hear.)—LORD PALMERSTON said that Sir John McNeil and Colonel Tulloch were employed on an inquiry of great importance, and performed their duty entirely to the satisfaction of her Majesty's Government, very much to their own credit (Hear, hear), and with great skill, minuteness, and ability (Hear, hear). No doubt their report had been very useful to her Majesty's Government, and would be useful in preventing a recurrence of the unfortunate events to which it referred. At the same time it did not appear that the services rendered called for any special recognition.—Mr. LAYARD asked whether it was true that promotion had been offered to Colonel Tulloch before he went to the Crimea, but that since his return many junior officers had been promoted over his head?—LORD PALMERSTON was not aware of any such offer. There had been promotions of officers of great merit, who were Colonel Tulloch's seniors in the same rank, and it would not have been fair to have promoted him over their heads.

CORRUPT PRACTICES AT ELECTIONS.—Mr. H. BAKER asked the First Lord of the Treasury when he intended to move for a Select Committee to inquire into the operation of the Corrupt Practices at Elections Prevention Act?—LORD PALMERSTON said he would take an early opportunity.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.—Sir C. WOOD said he would proceed with these estimates on Monday next.

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in reply to Mr. Ricardo, said he would state the intentions of the Government upon this subject at an early day.

THE SECRET TREATY.

Mr. DISRAELI here rose to make his explanation about the secret treaty, when he was interrupted by

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE, who expressed a hope that, if the subject was to be gone into at all, other members besides those personally concerned might be permitted to take part in it.

Sir J. PAKINGTON reminded the House that that would be an unusual course.

Mr. DISRAELI, after noticing the interruption, proceeded to remind the House that eight or nine years ago Lord Palmerston contradicted him as to the guarantee by England of the Saxon provinces of Prussia, but was afterwards reduced to confess that that guarantee was actually inexistence. Now, on the first night of the Session the noble Lord again contradicted him; but he could not then refer to the terms of the treaty, for it was not printed. He did not, therefore, rise to reiterate his statement, though he had received his information from a quarter which could not be mistaken, and which could not deceive. He thought the people would admit that, being in possession of this information, and believing it to be accurate, he could not, as an honest man, suppress it. He wished to guard himself; and at some length, amid general impatience, he denied being animated by a hostile feeling either to Austria or to France. What he wished to impugn was the conduct of her Majesty's Government, who, being aware of this treaty, coquetted with the Italians, and tantalised them with hopes of independence which they knew to be impossible. He then came to the question. The noble Lord first contradicted him altogether as to the existence of a secret treaty; and next, that if there were such a treaty the British Government never heard of it, and, if they had been consulted, their advice would have been given in an opposite direction. Now, his statement was, that negotiations were opened between France and Austria respecting the safety of the Italian dominions; that those negotiations were brought to a successful conclusion; that they assumed the form of a secret treaty; and that it was dated the 22nd December, 1854. As to the second allegation, that the British Government knew nothing of such a treaty, he had in his possession irresistible evidence that her Majesty's Government was privy to these negotiations from the first, and gave them their cordial concurrence. He might state further that, in consequence of this treaty, Austria withdrew a large portion of her troops from Italy; that the other Italian Governments became alarmed; and to quiet them Austria, with the consent not of France only but of England also, confidentially communicated to them the fact of the existence of this treaty. The noble Lord said that he had access to archives, and that he had found out treaties of which the Government had never heard. But he would tell the noble Lord that, if he would give him without reserve the correspondence contained in the archives of the Foreign-office in Downing-street from December, 1854, to January, 1855, and assist him in obtaining any official evidence which might—although he thought it would not—be necessary to elucidate some passages, he would undertake to say that he could then prove every title of the assertions he had made. The House would, he hoped, at least admit that he had not shrunk from coming to a direct issue with the noble Lord. The noble Lord, the other night, treated a very grave subject in his customary spirit and tone of levity. He did not at all admire the tone of the noble Lord. For, whether the statement he made were correct or incorrect, it was not in a tone of ribald ridicule that it should have been answered (Hear, hear, hear); but rather in a tone of warm and overwhelming indignation. If he had made on so grave a matter an incorrect statement, his character as a politician might have been damaged or destroyed. But if he had made an unfounded statement, then it would not have been his character as a politician but as a member of society that would have been at stake. He had sat in that House for twenty years, and laboured assiduously to acquire their good opinion. It was dearer to him than all worldly possessions. He was conscious that he had frequently addressed them with inefficiency, sometimes it might be with indiscretion, but this he knew that he had ever treated the House with candour. Whether the noble Lord had in the answer which he gave to him the other night treated the House in the same spirit he could not but imagine (Hear, hear).

Lord PALMERSTON said that nothing that he had said on a previous evening could justify the noble Lord's statement in thinking that his honour or character was at stake in this matter. He had never accused him of inventing the statement. What he did accuse him of was of credulity in believing, or in inducing to believe, that which was devoid of foundation. The noble Lord, he said, had found out treaties with him for not being angry, for treating him with good humour, and with what he called the right hon. gentleman with what he would not stay to question—called "good humour." Well, those who make themselves ridiculous were generally the first to accuse others of ridiculing them (Laughter). It was natural that they should be the objects of the ridicule of which they themselves were the cause, and of which they were the cause. In his explanation that evening the noble Lord had omitted some important portions of his former statement. His charge against the British Government was, that while they were proceeding to settle the treaty with the Italians in their aversion to a Russian yoke they were secretly encouraging France to guarantee the Italian dominions of Austria. In answer to that charge he (Lord Palmerston) said, what he now repeated, that there was no such secret treaty in existence; and he reminded the House that the right honourable gentleman even now had produced no evidence of it. He repeated that he had never seen or heard of such a treaty; that he did not believe in it; and that, unless the right hon. gentleman could say he had seen it, he must believe that the right hon. gentleman had been lying, or deluded. He stated then, as he stated now, that in such an answer to him as Austria to take part in the war, negotiations were opened with that Power, and it was promised that it should take part in the war France would not encourage any insurrectionary movement in Italy. A convention embodying this declaration was drawn up, but it was not signed, and for this good reason, that Austria did not hold her part of the engagement, by taking part in the war. Had it been signed, it still would not have given the slightest ground for believing that it was intended to be a guarantee. The case was simply this:—If Austria had been ready to fight and France, then these countries would have done their duty as allied allies to her. But it was never intended

there should be a guarantee. The convention was a temporary instrument for a temporary object, and it was not signed because Austria did not enter into the war. No doubt the honourable engagements which were its foundation, and which it was intended to record, would have been acted upon if the case to which it was meant to apply had arisen; but it was a total misapplication of terms to call such a convention a guarantee of the Austrian possessions in Italy. He begged the right hon. gentleman's pardon for not having been angry with him (Laughter), the other night he could not muster up indignation even then; and, if he would not excuse him for having treated the subject in a manner not likely to give just offence to any man, he must throw himself on the indulgence of the right hon. gentleman for not having spoken with more indignation than he had done (Laughter). His object was to vindicate the Government from a charge of bad faith and deceitfulness towards Italy. The hon. gentleman said the other night that the Government had not only encouraged but instigated this treaty. That night he had only said that the transactions were made known to the Government from time to time. He trusted that he had vindicated the honour of the Government, and having done that he should not longer trespass on the indulgence of the House (Cheers).

THE INCOME-TAX.—Major REED, who had a motion on the paper on the subject of the Income-tax, postponed it, in consequence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer being about to introduce his Budget on Friday.

Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE obtained leave to introduce a bill for Reformatory Schools in England, similar to that which was now in force in Scotland.

SALE OF BEER.—Mr. HARDY moved for leave to bring in a bill to regulate houses for the sale of beer &c. He proposed to assimilate beer-shops to public-houses, so far as the necessity for a license was concerned, and to bring coffee-shops and shell-fish shops under the supervision of the police. After a short discussion leave was given to bring in the bill.

THE STATUTE-LAW COMMISSION.

LORD PALMERSTON moved for a Select Committee to consider that part of the report of the Statute-Law Commissioners regarding the improvement of the manner and language of current legislation. He reminded the House of the ridiculous results which had frequently occurred in legislation—one bill he remembered made provision for Good Friday falling upon a Sunday. Those mistakes were not wonderful, considering the manner in which bills were passed through the two Houses. There was room for improvement in the language of Acts of Parliament. The redundancy of language, which was introduced to prevent mistakes, was often the cause of mistakes. To consider these questions he moved for a Select Committee.

Mr. NAHER complained that he had given notice of a larger question, of which this Committee would only embrace a portion. He would not, however, oppose it; but he did not give up his intention to bring forward his own motion on Thursday next.

Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE contended that there was no necessity for a Committee; the Government ought to act at once. He adduced several instances of the absurdity and complexity of Acts of Parliament.

Mr. BARNES defended the appointment of the Committee, which was agreed to.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA IN ITALY.—The Emperor is still at Milan, and the best-informed persons in this city are as ignorant as myself of the day on which his Majesty intends to begin his homeward journey. On the 28th of January their Majesties went to the top of the Cathedral of Milan, from which there is a fine, though distant, view of the Alps. On the same day a long visit was paid to the Brera Palace, which immense edifice contains the Academy of Science and Literature, an observatory, a technological and mechanical museum, the Academy of Fine Arts, the Pinakothek (gallery of pictures), a gymnasium, a large library, a collection of coins, and a botanical garden. At the masquerade which took place in the Scala on the 28th ult. the occupants of the boxes and pit shouted—"Ti vogliamo bene" ("We have a kindly feeling towards you"); "Vieni abbasso" ("Come below"). That their Majesties did not venture into the midst of a dense and noisy crowd need hardly be said. Baron Hesse, who lodged at the Albergo Reale, has, by order of his Majesty, removed to apartments in the Imperial Palace. The Milan correspondent of the *Oesterreichische Zeitung* writes that one of the principal features in the new military organisation is, that the pay of the subaltern officers and the privates is raised. As a consequence of telegraphic communications, the political prisoners were liberated directly after the publication of the amnesty. Five Italian prisoners who were confined at Olmütz, in Moravia, have passed through this city on their way to their homes. One of the persons pardoned, a Signor Perigo, who was formerly employed in the principal hospital at Milan, was so overjoyed when the door of his prison was opened, and in such a violent hurry to get home, that he fell down a staircase of twenty-five steps. The poor man was not very seriously hurt, but he still walks about Milan with his head bandaged.—*Letter from Vienna, Feb. 4.*

THE KING OF SIAM'S GUARDS.—A corps which particularly attracts the attention of strangers is the battalion of the King's Guard, composed of women. This battalion consists of 400 women, chosen among the handsomest and most robust girls in the country. They receive excellent pay, and their discipline is perfect. They are admitted to serve at the age of thirteen, and are placed in the army of reserve at twenty-five. From that period they no longer serve about the King's person, but are employed to guard the Royal palaces and the Crown lands. The costume these women wear is very rich. Their full dress is composed of a white woollen robe, embroidered with gold. The cloth is extremely fine, and descends as far as the knee; it is covered with a light coat of mail and a gilt cuirass. The arms are free, and the head is covered with a gilt casque. When wearing this dress on state occasions, their only weapon is a lance, which they handle with wonderful dexterity. With their undress they are armed with a musket. The battalion is composed of four companies, and each company of 100 women is commanded by a captain of their sex. Should the captain die, the company is drilled during three days by the King, who appoints the most competent to succeed to the command. The battalion has been commanded during the last five years by a woman who saved the King's life at a tiger-hunt by her courage and skill. She possesses great influence at Court, and is much respected by those under her command. She has the same establishment as a member of the Royal family, and ten elephants are placed at her service. The King never undertakes any expedition without being accompanied by his female guard; nor does he ever hunt, or even ride out, without an escort of the same guard, who are devotedly attached to his person. Each individual of the battalion has five negroes attached to her service; and thus, having no domestic occupation, she can devote herself exclusively to the duties of her profession. There is a parade-ground near the city, where the women of one company are stationed for two days every week to exercise themselves in the use of the lance, the pistol, the musket, and the rifle. The King attends once a month at those exercises, accompanied by his brother, who shares in some degree the sovereign power, and distributes prizes to those most deserving. Those rewards consist of bracelets or other valuable jewellery, to which the women and their families attach great importance. Those so honoured fill the offices of sergeant and corporal. Punishment is very rare in this corps, and when it is inflicted it consists of a suspension from service for a period not exceeding three months. But duels are much more frequent. They must be sanctioned, however, by the female captain, and be fought with swords in the presence of the entire company. When the death of one of the parties ensues, the deceased receives a magnificent funeral, and the high priest pronounces a panegyric declaring that the deceased by her valour has merited eternal rest in the abode of the blessed. The survivor receives the congratulations of her companions; but, as a measure of discipline, she is sentenced to pass two months away from her company in fasting and prayer. The military organisation of this battalion is so perfect that the entire army endeavours to imitate it.—*Moniteur de l'Armée.*

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPT. 30, 1856.—The total income from all the regular sources of revenue was £71,318,000, and the total expenditure £58,307,000; being an excess of £16,959,000 of expenditure over income. In the various departments of revenue the sums contributed respectively were, in round numbers, as follows:—Customs, £23,000,000; Excise, £17,000,000; Stamps, £7,000,000; Taxes (land and assessed), £3,000,000; Property-tax, £16,000,000; and Post-office, £2,700,000. Under the head of expenditure, £23,625,000 figures as the total charge on account of debt; £1,750,000 amount of charges on Consolidated Fund. The army and ordnance expenditure amounted to £23,000,000; the navy to £17,608,000; to both of which items may be added £1,410,000 for additional war expenses. The sum expended for miscellaneous civil services is £6,693,000; and for salaries, &c., of revenue departments, £4,124,000. The total balance in the Exchequer on the 30th of September, 1856, was £6,761,000, and the 30th September, 1856, £7,084,000.

REDUCTION OF THE AUSTRIAN ARMY.—A letter from Vienna, in the *Wirtzburger Gazette*, says:—"The reduction of the army, resolved on by the Emperor, will be of great financial importance. The extraordinary military expenses are still 102,000,000 florins, and the deficit 33,000,000 florins. The reduction in the army, by removing the extraordinary military expenses, will at once blow reduce the deficit to 33,000,000 florins. The ordinary military expenses amount to 114,000,000 fl., but, by savings already approved of by the Emperor, they may be diminished by 10,000,000 fl."

DIAMOND SMUGGLING.—A box containing 40,000 dollars' worth of diamonds was seized at the Custom-house on the 20th ult., the attempt to smuggle them having been accidentally discovered. It had arrived by the *Washington* from Southampton, and was addressed to Heule Brothers, the largest importers of diamonds in the City. The authorities have searched their premises, and seized diamonds and other stones to the value of 150,000 dollars more on suspicion of their being smuggled. The consignees have been arrested and released on bail.

THE CHINESE WAR.—OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

The papers relating to the proceedings of her Majesty's naval forces at Canton, presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of her Majesty, were published on Saturday. They include the despatches from Sir John Bowring to the Earl of Clarendon, Admiral Seymour's despatches to the Admiralty; the respective correspondence between Sir John Bowring, Admiral Seymour, and Consul Parkes, and with the Chinese authorities; documents relative to the proceedings of the French and American representatives; together with a variety of papers, the substance of which has already been made known. There is also an appendix, composed of papers dating from 1848, respecting the right of British subjects to free entry into Canton. The only expression of opinion on the part of the home Government contained in the papers will be found in the following despatches:—

THE EARL OF CLARENDON TO SIR J. BOWRING.

Foreign Office, Dec. 10, 1856.

Sir,—I have received your despatches of the 13th and 15th of October, reporting what had passed in regard to the seizure, by the Chinese authorities at Canton, of the crew of the *lorcha Arrow*, sailing under British colours.

I have consulted the law officer of the Crown on this matter, and I have now to state to you, that I am of opinion that this act of the Chinese authorities constitutes an infraction of Article IX. of the Supplementary Treaty.

The only possible defence open to them appears to be, that the *Arrow* was not "an English merchant ship" within the true intent and meaning of the Treaty; but Article XVII., Rule I., in Supplementary Treaty, recognises and includes this particular class of vessel; she had a British master, British colours and papers; and even if her license had been improperly granted in August, 1854, this was a matter of British internal regulation, and to be dealt with by the British authorities. This point is evidently an after-thought on the part of the Chinese, and the only evidence of it is the uncorroborated assertion of one of the crew whilst in custody. No British *lorcha* would be safe if her crew were liable to seizure on such grounds.

I have further to observe that there do not seem to have been any such circumstances of urgency in this case as would afford any justification or excuse for the arbitrary conduct of the Chinese authorities, who were, probably, emboldened by the absence of any of her Majesty's ships from Canton. The *Arrow* was bound to Hong-Kong, and if any of her crew could be identified as having been guilty of piracy, or were even suspected of it, there would have been no difficulty in securing their apprehension and delivery, had the Chinese authorities taken the course indicated by Article IX., viz., communicating with the British Consul. Only two of her crew were charged with piracy, viz., Le-ming-tae, and Liang-kieng-foo; the third detained (Woo-a-jen) is, apparently, only wanted as a witness; and there was not the slightest pretext for seizing the other nine, who were afterwards released.

The accidental and temporary absence of the British master on board a neighbouring vessel could not affect the question. The British flag is clearly proved (by the deposition of Kennedy and Leach) to have been hauled down by the Chinese Mandarin crew, notwithstanding the denial of this fact by the Imperial Commissioner; but even if the flag had not been actually flying at the moment, it is obvious that the national character of the *lorcha* was well known to the authorities.

The expiration of the *Arrow's* sailing license on September 27, previous to her seizure, does not appear to have been known to the Chinese authorities; and this, again, is a matter of British regulation which would not justify seizure by the Chinese.

The principle involved in this case is most important, and the demands made by Mr. Consul Parkes appear to me to be very moderate under the circumstances. I consider that the redelivery of the three men still detained and a subsequent formal demand for their extradition before they are given up again, should be insisted on as a *sine qua non*. They must be considered as having been forcibly taken in breach of Treaty, and without any justification or excuse, from on board a British vessel, and illegally detained in custody by the orders of the Imperial Commissioner, with full knowledge of all the circumstances, and in defiance of a formal demand by the British Consul.

Under all the circumstances of the case, I approve of the intention to seize and hold one of the Imperial junks as security for the redress which the High Commissioner has been called upon to afford in this case.

I have only to add, that I conclude you will have caused a strict inquiry to be made into the circumstances connected with the grant of the license to the *lorcha* in the year 1854.

I am, &c.,

(Signed)

CLARENDON.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY TO MR. HAMMOND.

(Received January 3.)

Admiralty, January 3, 1857.

Sir,—I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you copies of a letter from Rear-Admiral Sir Michael Seymour, and of such of its inclosures as have not been received at the Foreign Office, detailing the operations at Canton; and, in laying these before the Earl of Clarendon, I have to request that you will, as Lord-Lieutenant, inform my Lords what instructions are to be sent to the Admiral by the mail of the 10th instant.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

THOS. PHINN.

R. HAMMOND TO THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY.

Foreign Office, January 10, 1857.

I have laid before the Earl of Clarendon your letter of the 3rd instant, inclosing Rear-Admiral Sir Michael Seymour's report of the late operations in the Canton river; and I have to acquaint you that her Majesty's Government entirely approve the course which has been adopted by Rear-Admiral Sir Michael Seymour and yourself; and I have to instruct you also to convey to Mr. Parkes a similar approval of his conduct.

Count de Courcy, the French representative, expresses to Sir John Bowring his "moral adhesion" to the course taken by the British authorities, and his recognition of the fact that our common interests direct us towards the revision of our treaties with China.

THE EARL OF CLARENDON TO SIR J. BOWRING.

Foreign Office, Jan. 10, 1857.

I have received your despatch of the 23rd of October last, with a report of the operations in the Canton river; and I have to acquaint you that her Majesty's Government entirely approve the course which has been adopted by Rear-Admiral Sir Michael Seymour and yourself; and I have to instruct you also to convey to Mr. Parkes a similar approval of his conduct.

Count de Courcy, the French representative, expresses to Sir John Bowring his "moral adhesion" to the course taken by the British authorities, and his recognition of the fact that our common interests direct us towards the revision of our treaties with China.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE

NEW OBSERVATORY OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

Lat. 51° 28' 6" N.; Long. 0° 18' 47" W.; Height above sea 34 feet.

DAY.	DAILY MEANS OF					THERMOMETER.		WIND.	General Direction.	Movement in 24 hours.	RAIN in 24 hours.
	Barometer Corrected.	Temperature of Air.	Dew Point.	Relative Humidity.	Amount of Cloud.	Minimum read at 10 A.M.	Maximum read at 10 P.M.				
Jan. 1	30.039	47.2	42.6	85	8	45.9	50.5	S.W.	322	0.07	
" 2	29.761	44.1	37.6	80	5	43.1	46.9	S.W.	318	1.20	
" 3	29.218	46.4	40.7	82	9	39.4	50.4	S.S.W.	315	1.23	
" 4	29.285	40.1	36.3	68	10	40.2	42.5	S.W. N.	617	0.10	
" 5	29.944	32.3	26.1	80	8	34.6	35.8	N.E.	427	1.50	
" 6	30.224	33.4	29.1	86	9	29.4	36.0	N.E.	671	0.09	
" 7	30.382	32.0	28.3	87	10	29.9	34.0	N.E.	561	0.00	
" 8	30.322	35.0	34.8	99	10	31.0	37.4	S.S.W. E.S.E.	243	0.30	
" 9	30.052	44.4	43.0	95	10	32.5	45.3	S.S.W.	89	1.20	
" 10	29.535	46.8	42.8	87	8	44.0	49.9	S.W.	394	7.25	
" 11	29.192	42.8	38.6	87	7	42.7	45.7	N.W.	352	2.94	
" 12	29.215	35.3	33.0	92	10	29.8	41.9	S.W. S.E.	311	0.25	
" 13	29.596	34.2	32.0	93	4	31.9	36.2	N. W.	147	0.30	
" 14	30.107	32.7	26.2	79	4	32.6	37.5	N.W. N.W.	195	0.00	
" 15	30.056	36.2	34.1	93	3	24.9	41.4	S.S.W. N.W.	195	0.10	
" 16	30.129	37.6	34.2	88	4	32.3	44.8	W.	175	1.27	
" 17	30.339	38.6	36.7	94	6	31.8		S.W.	189	0.00	
" 18	30.300	47.3	44.6	91	10		49.9	S.W.	147	0.25	
" 19	30.226	41.3	38.2	90	5	46.1	49.9	N.W. W.	262	0.14	
" 20	29.519	38.4	35.7	91	10	32.8	43.8	S.W.	179	0.19	
" 21	29.589	32.3	30.8	95	5	29.7	37.8	N.W. S.W.	336	2.65	
" 22	29.730	37.5	33.9	88	6	30.0	44.5	N.W. S.W.	126	0.07	
" 23	29.298	37.0	32.2	82	5	36.6	43.8	W.	210	0.75	
" 24	29.136	37.8	33.3	85	9	33.4	41.8	V.	346	0.30	
" 25	29.460	35.9	33.4	91	10	34.9	39.0	N.E.	257	2.18	
" 26	29.734	34.3	30.7	88	10	33.0	36.2	N.	448	0.94	
" 27	29.907	32.1	27.8	85	2	32.3	35.4	N.	390	0.61	

The daily means are obtained from observations made at 6h. and 10h. a.m., and 2h., 6h., and 10h. p.m., on each day, except Sunday, when the first observation is omitted. The corrections for diurnal variation are taken from the Tables of Mr. Glaisher. The "Dew Point" and "Relative Humidity" are calculated, from observations of the dry and wet bulb thermometers, by Dr. Apjohn's Formula and Dalton's Tables of the Tension of Vapour. The movement of the wind is given by a self-recording Robinson's Anemometer, the amount stated for each day being that registered from midnight to midnight.

"MANAGEMENT" OF THE DEBT.

"The value of a thing," says a hard-mouthed proverb, "is what it will fetch." The makers of this stern saying forgot to include a proposition as to the kindred consideration—namely, what it costs to fetch the thing. We have recently been apprised, by no means an authority than the *Quarterly Review*, that, if Mr. Briggs goes to the Tweed and catches a salmon, that fish costs Mr. Briggs from £3 to £5. We have also been edified by an anecdote of two titled sportsmen who rented a Scottish moor, and who, calculating in presence of a Highland innkeeper that each grouse they slew cost them £6, were heartily congratulated upon being such bad shots as they had proved themselves. These, however, are what are called fancy prices; and although Mr. Briggs and the other noble sportsmen cheerfully pay them when out for enjoyment—always heightened, to an English mind, by its expensiveness—they would be very much disgusted if asked to pay at the same rate for the ordinary gratifications of life—for instance, on the obtaining their dividends from the Governor and Company of the Bank of England. It is fortunate, therefore, for their peace of mind that this special gratification is paid for at a preposterous rate without the knowledge of the parties most interested.

It might not be charitable to enlighten the rich man upon the subject. In fact, as we shall speedily show, although he has, abstractedly, a right to complain, and that loudly, of the particular abuse to which we shall refer, he is, comparatively, in an advantageous position. But inasmuch as this position is incompatible with the recognised ideas of justice, and as a rectification of the abuse in question will be a positive benefit to Dives, as well as to his poorer brethren, we shall venture to lay before the public a brief explanation of what it costs to fetch a dividend. There is a peculiar propriety in inviting attention to the subject just now. The Bank Charter, which has been renewed thirteen times, is now before Parliament for a fourteenth renewal, and though, under ordinary circumstances, a recommendation to reform an objectionable feature in a system is received with singular coldness by those who work that system, a similar suggestion, by some peculiarity of human nature, meets with curiously respectful treatment when the system itself is being overhauled by a superior power. Availing ourselves of this fact, let us produce a few figures in illustration of the proposition we desire to establish; namely, that advanced by Mr. Ingram, in the debate on Friday night (upon Sir G. C. Lewis's motion for a Select Committee on the Bank Act), that the management of the National Debt demands reform. The question is an administrative one, and may be considered entirely apart from the complex terrors of the Currency dogmas; and, indeed, it chiefly affects those to whom the most ordinary truths of finance are about as familiar as the cuniculi character, or the Homeric hymns.

The first point to which we must direct attention is the following tabulated statement. It contains a reliable estimate of the number of persons who, in 1840, received dividends on the Debt; of the number of those who, in 1850, received it; and a classification of the amounts of such dividends. A comparison of the varying numbers, in reference to amounts, at the two periods is both interesting and suggestive, in a social point of view; but our immediate object is within a more limited and arithmetical range of consideration.

In receipt of Half-yearly dividends.	There were in 1840	In 1850
Under £5	86,268 persons	89,393 persons.
£5 to £10	45,392	42,323
£10 to £50	99,015	92,372
£50 to £100	26,133	23,770
£100 to £200	14,553	12,616
£200 to £500	3,978	3,929
£500 to £1000	2,802	2,563
£1000 to £2000	1,317	1,181
Above £2000	381	355
	193	210
	260,377	269,136

Remarking, in connection with a previous observation, that it will be seen from the above table that, though the gross number of stockholders will be found to have diminished during the ten years from 1840 to 1850, the smallest class of holders had increased by upwards of three thousand during that term, we now proceed to show what charge the Bank of England makes to the country—that is to say to the taxpayer—for handing to these persons, twice in the year, the dividends payable upon their stock. The cost of the machinery which keeps in daily action these alphabetised gentlemen, whom Mr. Weller the elder conceived to be what he was pleased to call Reduced Counsels, and whom he justifiably regarded as alive, is shown by the following detail:—In 1845 the gross amount of "management" charges made by the Bank of England to the month of March was £252,051; in 1850 it was £251,457; in 1853 it was £247,853; in 1855 it was £252,000; and in the current year it is £247,332. The previous tabulated statement is calculated to 1850, when 269,736 persons took dividends, and as sufficient approximation to precision it may be said that it costs nearly £1 per head to hand over the dividend.

Now, in the first place, it may seem to be doing business a little in the way of Mr. Briggs and his salmonicide to make the payment of ten pounds cost one pound. The machinery which requires so much oil must surely resemble that which Lord Palmerston, we recollect, amused the House of Commons by describing, in his inimitable way, a few years ago, an American contrivance, by which a steam-engine, we forget how much water-power, and certain horses, combined their forces for the purpose of drawing corks from bottles. When the Duke of Piccadilly, weary of wheel rattle, runs down to his ancestral mansion for a day or two of quiet, a system of stewardship and swindle-ship comes into action; and his mutton-chops during that repose cost him ten times as much as the best dinner he could give at the Reform Club. But these splendid feats are not for every-day life, nor even to be performed in the case of Brown and Jones twice a year. If those persons had to pay out of their pockets a tenth of their dividend for receiving the rest, the Bank, which owed its existence to one revolution, would certainly end it in another. But why do Jones and Brown look calmly on and see the Bank paid, out of the taxes to which they contribute, at that extortionate rate? This is one thing for Brown and Jones to consider. But there is another. Not only is the dividend paid in a very costly but in a very inconvenient and clumsy manner. Lord Palmerston's machinery did draw the cork, the Duke does get his chops at their weight in sovereigns, and the dividend is paid, but in how troublesome and roundabout a way! Either the stockholder must personally attend, and be identified (a very inconvenient proceeding, as a thousand matrons and elderly maidens will witness, and as any man of business who does not happen to have his business near the Bank will confirm), or he, or she, must give a power of attorney, which is duly stamped, costs a great deal of money, and requires elaborate signatures and attestations, and which leaves one's income at the mercy of a second person—a proceeding which is at all times disagreeable, and which has of late years been occasionally found to be equivalent to self-ruin. Add to this that those who reside at a distance from the Bank, and receive their dividends secondhand, have to incur either the risks of postal transmission

or the expense of banker's commission, which, upon the back of the attorney's commission, makes a very appreciable percentage upon income already heavily taxed.

The Bank dividend system, therefore, is at once very costly and very clumsy. Before we adduce an instance or two of a different kind of management, let us meet an objection which will, no doubt, be urged to our estimate of its cost. It will be said—indeed the fact is patent even upon the ill-arranged accounts by which it is sought to mystify the national auditors—that the Bank returns to the nation, under the 7 and 8 Vict., c. 92, the sum of £180,000 for exclusive privileges, and that this reduces the management expenses to an average of about £90,000. Probably, on second thoughts, this excuse will be kept out of the case, for it is not one to which the Bank will find it very politic to call attention. A worse bargain was never made for the nation—a bold word, too—than this. There is not a great private bank that would not gladly give four times the amount for a concession of the exclusive privileges now in the possession of the Bank of England.

But look for a moment at the case of other associations where a dividend has to be paid. Compare the cost of managing the department of railway administration. We will take two instances. The Manchester and Sheffield Railway Company had at the last closing of the books 4900 shareholders, and a capital of £9,000,000. The entire cost of making out all the necessary documents making these shareholders to draw their income for half a year is under £63; and for a year, £125 13s. 2d. This represents, instead of the Bank cost of a pound, the sum of sixpence to each shareholder. Now, take the Midland Railway, its share capital is £16,131,473; and its debenture debt £4,339,806 (the principle involved is independent of amount; but we give these formidable figures because the Bank of England is supposed by thousands to represent an ever-springing fountain of gold and silver not to be measured by ordinary rule); and it has about 10,000 shareholders and 2400 debenture-holders. In 1856 the total expenses of the dividend department were £366. In addition to this extraordinary difference of expense, the shareholder's income is received without personal attendance, without expensive documents, without risk, and without inconvenience. The railway warrant is the railway bank-note.

The attention of the public need only be called to the difference of the two systems to insure an expression of popular feeling upon the subject. The present is the time for such expression, and the room in which the Committee is about to sit is the place in which suggestions upon the point will be considered, unless the House itself should be compelled to take the matter up. It is impossible that in a practical country so ridiculous an anomaly as the dividend system will be permitted to last. There are, of course, many reasons why it will be defended by the great company which works it. The more difficulty there is thrown in the way of removing money, the longer it is likely to accumulate; and no commercial man need be reminded of the value of even a few days' retention of small sums, multiplied by thousands, in the present delicate and sensitive state of our money system. The unclaimed dividend books show that the Bank raise no ideal and imaginary obstacle in the way of timidity, indolence, or want of knowledge of business. And that the dividend system has worked for many years is reason enough with those who call themselves safe men to resist its reformation. The case which we have made out, however, is too strong to leave it probable that the system can survive even a cursory examination by those to whom the subject is intrusted. Without unduly prolonging these remarks by the suggestion of substitutes for the existing arrangements (the nearer the approach to the simplicity of a well-checked and vigilantly-watched railway share department the better), we would express a hope that the Committee will give its attention to a proposition formerly brought forward by Mr. Ingram, and the justice and convenience of which must strike all who will give a moment's thought to the point. His proposal was that the dividend warrant should be for all practical purposes a bank-note, and that, at all events, it should be made a legal tender to the tax-gatherer. The series of savings which would be gained by this arrangement, so completely in conformity with the spirit of the Bank constitution, will be evident to a man of business; and if we do not trace it here it is only because we wish to exclude from this article all detail which will not have value for the mass of readers. Mr. Ingram's proposition, however, will probably be submitted, in due course, to the House, and we shall then take another opportunity of showing the advantages it offers. In the mean time we would urge upon all who are, or who hope to be, interested in the National Debt to give consideration to the question what it costs to fetch a dividend.

SKATING IN HYDE PARK.

JACK FROST is rather a popular visitor with Londoners. You may know when he has come to town by the way in which men and women in the streets hurry along, as though they expected to overtake him in one direction or another. They are sure he is thereabout, for he has blown in their faces, and turned their noses red or blue by his breath. He has shaken them by their hands, and trodden upon their toes, and they feel his civility and incivility at the tips of their extremities. But they are good friends for all that; for the pursuit of the invisible visitor has stretched the muscles, and set the blood flowing briskly through the veins, which will diminish the sale of antibilious pills some thousands of boxes, and send people to their homes with such appetites that the plainest fare will be received with cheers, and any little error in cookery be overlooked or forgiven. Jack Frost stands very high in favour with the boys of London, and to attend him they generally "fall dress" in monstrous worsted comforters and close-eared caps. They call aloud his praises to each other—"Here's a jolly Frost, Bob Brown!" and, "O, aint this lummy?" They find his footsteps on the pavement, and cut out slides upon them, to the peril of feeble and careless pedestrians. They hold great feasts round baked-potato and kidney-pudding cans; and of late years pour down their own throats libations of a curious mixture, enticingly named "Hot Speed Elder-wine." What can it be? Let us hope that they are no worse cheated than the buyers of fine old crusted port at two and a penny a bottle. Jack Frost is not on good terms with the cabmen. He plays them sad tricks. Coming unexpectedly, when they are not "roughed," and running away again as soon as they are so. He tries the tempers and the coachmanship of those honest fellows, who scarcely find consolation in their tribulation by charging treble fares and drinking many pints of purl and dog's-nose. But it is in the parks where Jack Frost is to be seen in all his glory—there his admirers assemble in thousands; and, casting aside all distinctions of society, the Lord Muskovers and the Bill Bluescrapers jostle each other on the ice as though they were really "dearly beloved brethren," and not pomander and soot-balls. No bacchanalian revel more stirring and confused; and yet the only excitement is exercise! Stay! there are brandy-balls—so highly recommended by the vendors, that, at a loss for further eulogium, they fall back upon inquiry, and ask (of course without pausing for a reply), "If one warms you for a week, what would a pound do?" Peppermint lozenges are in great request; and ginger-rock and "kian" drops are "hot 't the mouth," too. Roasted chestnuts crackling over glowing charcoal are irresistible to boys with cold hands and a penny. And yonder battered merchant, henceforth immortalised by Mr. Leech's pencil, will, thanks to Jack Frost, perhaps have a supper of tripe from the gains of the morning.

A happy fellow is this Son of Winter! for see how the rogue has kissed those pretty lips and dainty cheeks until they are red as summer roses. What would not those guardsmen give for the same privilege, even though they should kiss through a wedding-ring!

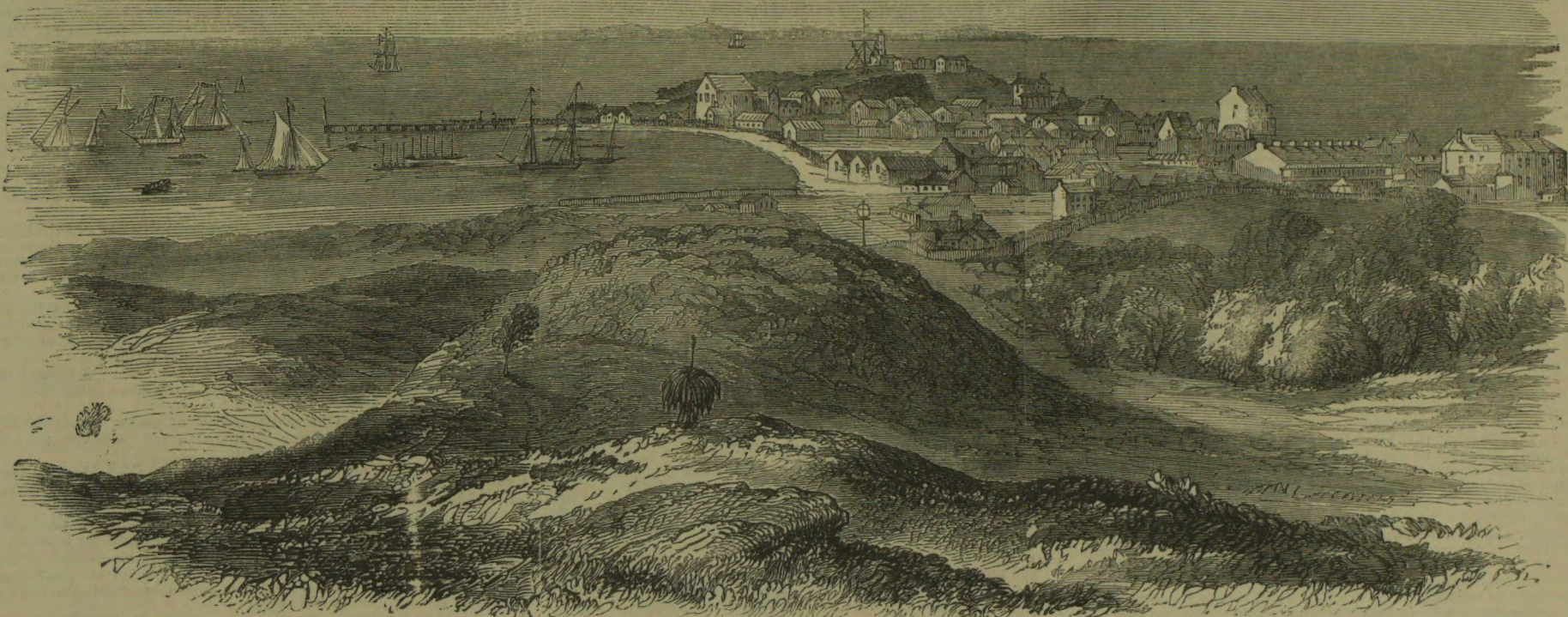
Hark! a dull, continuous cracking of the ice! a crumbling of its surface, and then more flaws and bubbling up of water. Jack Frost is away again! Those who are wise will follow his example and quit the dissolving floor, unless they wish to give trouble to the Humane Society and obtain a plunge-bath, a warm ditto, and a glass of brandy-and-water gratis.

M. L.



SKATING IN HYDE-PARK.—DRAWN BY JOHN LEECH.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)

SECONDARY PUNISHMENTS AND TICKETS OF LEAVE.



FREMANTLE, IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA: ROTTNE ISLAND, THE PROPOSED NEW CONVICT ESTABLISHMENT, IN THE DISTANCE.

By reference to the report of the important measure introduced to the House of Commons on Monday night, by Sir George Grey, it will be seen that Western Australia is the locality for the Government experiment of the deportation of convicts sentenced to penal servitude. The colonists, we are assured, really desire the services of convicts of the mother country, as we gather from the following statement, numerous signed by gentlemen connected with the colony of Western Australia, which has been read and presented by a deputation to Mr. Labouchere:—

TO THE RIGHT HON. HENRY LABOUCHERE, HER MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES, &c.

Sir,—We, the undersigned, having an interest in and knowledge of the resources of Western Australia, feel it a duty we owe both to that colony (whose real capabilities do not appear to be understood) and this country to put before the Government a few plain facts to prove that it is peculiarly adapted for a penal settlement:—

1. Because, the expense of planting a convict establishment (which is always very great) has been already incurred, substantial prisons and depôts have been built, and the necessary offices prepared to receive a large number of convicts.

2. The free settlers (unlike those of other parts of Australia) are willing to continue to receive convicts, to employ them, and to pay them great wages; they merely require some modification of the present system. The convicts can be beneficially employed in the advancement of the colony, such as making roads, bridges, and tramways into the timber forests and to the copper and lead mines.

3. Convict labour has been the means of producing the necessaries of life, which formerly were very scarce and dear, in abundant supply, and on reasonable terms. The convict establishment has also created a market for food, which is amply supplied by the settlers, and at cheap rates. Flour, as an instance, was formerly from £35 to £40 per ton, now (in October last) a contract was taken at £20 per ton, delivered at the depôt, and the contractor is prepared next year to supply it at £16 per ton.

4. Western Australia also possesses a fine climate, and is unconnected with other parts of Australia (at present) except by sea, and is as much an island as if surrounded by it. Convicts can only escape by sea, and the natives would very soon bring them back if they attempted the bush; indeed, the convicts well know it.

5. Rottne Island, about fourteen miles from Fremantle, is well adapted for the refractory convicts; and there is ample room for a large number, and employment for years to come in erecting forts and other necessary public works—raising salt, cultivating the land, gardens, &c.

6. That a large establishment may now be carried on at a very reasonable rate, as the heavy outlay in the colony has been increased principally for buildings, plant, &c.

We have the honour to remain, &c.,

(Here follow the signatures of the deputation.)

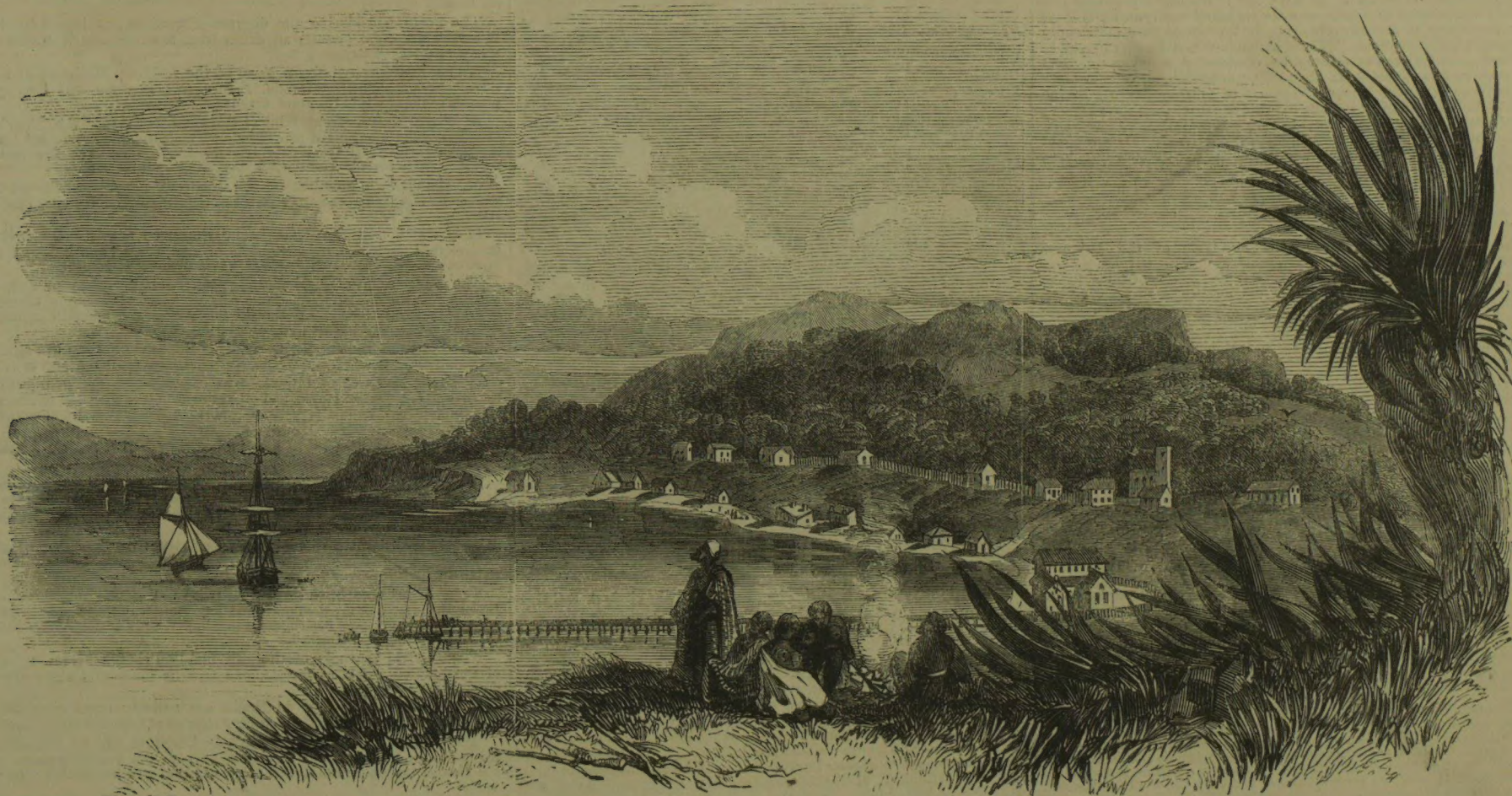
The accompanying View of Fremantle, already a convict settlement, shows the Island of Rottne in the distance, opposite the Lighthouse and Signal Station, nearly in the centre of the picture. The convict establishment is situated further to the right of the town than is included in the View. From among a variety of evidence of the approbation of the colonists we select the following from one of

the old settlers who had dreaded the importation of convict labour:—

We trust that Government do not intend to discontinue the introduction of convicts, seeing the great amount of benefit that has resulted to the colony from its having been made a penal settlement under the highly-improved system at present in operation, and how little trouble and uneasiness the ticket-of-leave population gives under the existing regulations; for not only are by far the majority of the ticket-holders reformed and better men as now treated, but we receive, free of charge to the colony, an importation of *free labour* of both sexes to an equal amount. Good and certain markets are formed for everything the settlers are able to produce or rear; and property of every description has acquired a value which it could not previously pretend to.

Lectures on various subjects have been delivered by the more enlightened portion of the convicts to their humbler companions in misfortune; while a manuscript weekly publication, called the *Family Herald*, conducted by the convicts, is stated to be got up creditably, and to strengthen the hope that there are many among them who, under the able management now exercised, may be restored to society, and do it good service.

We need scarcely add that the above circumstances invest Western Australia with immediate interest; and we are happy to add that the Sketch-book of a recent explorer (Captain Ffarrington) will enable us to present to our readers a few scenes of native and emigrant life from its least-known province. Of emigrants to Western Australia it



KING GEORGE'S SOUND.

used to be said, "They are gone to the Swan;" and the nominal locality of a picturesque but unimportant river is still commonly enough applied to an immense western and south-western territory, whence these Views have been directly sketched.

The accounts of the earliest explorers of the western coast of Australia were of the most unimpressive character, as attested in the details of the discoveries of Endracht's, Edels, and Lewerin's Lands, between the years 1616 and 1622. It was examined by Dampier and Vlaming, and afterwards by Flinders, Baudin, Péron, and Freycinet; but by all without any cheering or promising discovery. They stated it to consist almost everywhere of a ridge of low steep rocks, bordering on a sandy shore, accessible to boats only in a few points. There are occasional openings, or rather rifts, in these rocks, through which torrents sometimes pour, but without any enlivening or fertilising influence. But Captain Flinders, whose general accuracy can be relied on, did not in this case observe the sandy inlet by which the Murray River, since discovered by Captain Sturt, finds its way to the sea, although this river surpasses the Rhine in the length of its course.

On this dreary shore, extending for 800 miles, there was, however, found by the early explorers an important opening to a land of promise. Such was the Swan River, to which a little naval expedition, under Captain Stirling, was sent in 1826, when the brackish stream was explored for fifty miles; and the report made of the country on its banks was so favourable, that a Western Settlement, which had always been a desideratum, by reason of its much shorter distance from England, was formed there in the year 1829, under the government of Captain Stirling; and was, by a temporary Act of Parliament, erected into an independent colony, by the name of Western Australia, and regular grants of land were made to capitalists who took with them free labourers. But the fertility of the soil had evidently been exaggerated. After three years' experience, Lieutenant-Governor Stirling stated the only products of this country of any value to be its timber, which was inexhaustible, and of excellent quality; and its grasses, affording feed of superior quality for sheep, horses, and cattle. He adds:—

"There is a good species of tobacco and perennial flax, similar to the kind usually cultivated in Europe; but these are as yet only valuable as indicative of the capabilities of the soil."

"For some time back registers of the weather have been kept at King George's Sound, and at Perth, the capital of Swan River; in the latter district the climate may be said to be exceptional only in the months of January, February, and March, when the heat and drought are as disagreeable as they can be without affecting the health. The district of King George's Sound, being exposed to southerly winds in summer, and frequently visited by showers, is the most equable, perhaps, in the world, and the most temperate. The heat on the west coast is certainly intense; and the musquitos, which abound there in summer, are serious evils in their way, and have caused some dislike to this part of the country as a place of residence. But, notwithstanding these and other local and trivial objections, the climate, the ports, the position, and extent of the country are such as to fit it to be the seat of a wealthy and populous possession of the Crown; and I feel justified in saying, in this stage of its occupation, that it will not fail to become such from any natural disqualification of the soil."

The subject of the View is situated not far from the south-western extremity of the Australian continent. It consists of an outer sound and two inner basins or harbours, which are perfectly landlocked, and afford every security for ships. The basin, called Princess Royal Harbour, and situated on the west side of the sound, can be entered by vessels of considerable size, which ride at anchor close to the shore, in perfect security. The other basin, called Oyster Harbour, is not so secure. As there is no harbour within a great distance of it, either on the southern or western coast of Australia, which offers such advantages as King George's Sound, colonists were sent there from Sydney as early as 1826; and this settlement has been of great advantage to the colony of Swan River, settled at a later date. It is very conveniently situated for the purposes of refreshment and refitting vessels bound to New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, and is frequently resorted to by such vessels. The natives resemble those in the neighbourhood of Sydney, and are friendly to settlers.

The country, though barren, is very picturesque. The hills are strewn with a profusion of beautiful shrubs, flourishing about immense blocks of granite; *Banksias*, one of which is called by the colonists wild honeysuckle, are of extraordinary beauty; grass trees are abundant; and the forests consist of swamp-oaks (*Casuarina*) and gum-trees (*Eucalyptus*), the timber of which is, however, usually decayed at the heart. No grass fit for pasture grows on the plains, which are overrun with a coarse herbage. Here occurs a singular exception to the almost universal law in the vegetable kingdom, that truly parasitical genera are incapable of growing in the earth; on all the coasts of Australia the *Loranthus* is found growing sparingly, like mistletoe, upon the branches of *Eucalyptus*, *Casuarina*, *Acacia*, and *Melaleuca*; but in King George's Sound a terrestrial species occurs, forming a small tree fifteen feet high.

"King George's Sound was discovered in 1791; and is an extensive bay, on the south-western coast of Western Australia, and eastward of Cape Leeuwin (Lioness); the principal town is Albany. In 1826 it was taken possession of by the Sydney Government: it was intended to form a penal settlement there; indeed, a detachment of troops and some convicts were in possession of the place when the charter for Western Australia was granted; the settlement was consequently abandoned by the Government of New South Wales, and the troops and convicts were withdrawn."

Mr. Melville, from whose able work, "Australasia and Prison Discipline," we quote the above, describes the aborigines of this part of the continent as a very harmless race, and, generally speaking, willing to be employed by the settlers. To the credit of the white population, it should be mentioned that they have always acted kindly towards these black proprietors of the soil; consequently, they are on the most friendly terms with the Europeans. "These natives are not fitted to work as labourers; the children of nature are not educated to other toil than that necessary to obtain food: the hunting of the kangaroo and other wild animals is to them labour, whereas it is considered sport by the emigrants. Little danger is there of any disturbance with the blacks; and still less is it likely that the territory will be invaded by any hostile foreign Power. Under these circumstances, the Home Government consider five officers and 110 privates of her Majesty's 90th Regiment quite sufficient protection for all Western Australia."

(To be continued.)

THE LATE PRINCESS LIEVEN.—The body of the Princess Lieven has been embalmed and sent to Russia. A funeral service was performed over the corpse on the 4th inst., at the Lutheran Chapel, in the Rue Chauchat. The deceased Princess did not belong to the orthodox Greek Church. She has left by her will a life annuity of 8000 fr. to M. Guizot. This, considering his advanced age (sixty-eight), is a very modest legacy; and it is reported that the family of the Princess propose to pay a substantial capital sum instead, so that M. Guizot's family may be benefited. It is most confidently said in some quarters that M. Guizot was privately married to the Princess. At all events, his daughters as well as himself have gone into deep mourning for her. She was not extremely rich, her whole income never having been more than £3000 a year; but out of this, although she kept a liberal house, she managed to put by something annually.

THE RUSSIAN RAILWAYS.—The *Nord* has a long communication from St. Petersburg of the 25th ult., which contains remarks on the Russian railway projects, especially those to be carried out by Messrs. Stieglitz, Pereire, Thomas Baring, &c. It says that details of arrangements are not yet made known, nor has the act of concession been regularly signed, but will be so, probably, during the present month. It adds that the seat of the company will be at St. Petersburg, under the direction of a committee consisting of a president, two vice presidents, and seven members. This committee is already formed. M. Levchine, *admiral* of the Home Minister, is named president, and MM. Stieglitz and Thomas Baring, vice. The members are selected from the highest personages in finance, commerce, and administrative departments. The letter throws no light upon the tracing or direction of the four lines on the eve of being officially conceded, and is silent as to financial details. It states, however, that these four lines are regarded as insufficient for the necessities of the country, and that divers branches or connecting lines are spoken of as under consideration; all, of course, to be got up and opened to traffic by the aid of foreign capital.

CHILDREN IN WORKHOUSES.—A Parliamentary return, just issued, shows that on the 25th March, 1856, there were in the workhouses of 163 Unions in England and Wales 51,586 children, viz., 27,429 boys and 24,157 girls. Of these 3001 boys and 2785 girls were capable of entering upon service. In all, 12,769 were illegitimate, 12,893 were orphans, 2738 children of able-bodied parents in the workhouse, and only 702 of the children of the same class of parents out of the workhouse. In the workhouses of Middlesex were 3421 boys and 2834 girls; in those of Lancashire 2964 boys and 2365 girls. The counties of Kent and Surrey have the next largest numbers.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ARGUS; L. L.; J. P. F.; and others.—Our Problem No. 677 is exactly copied from the diagram in *La Régence*; but, as the Black King is in check, to begin with, we suspect there must be some error. We await the arrival of the next Number of the French magazine to explain or rectify the position.

P. H. Penzance.—It is the custom of the leading players—unless an arrangement to the contrary has been made by the parties beforehand—for each player to retain the same coloured men he begins with throughout a sitting.

J. D. M. P.—1. The blank Chess diagrams published by Messrs. Ashbee and Dangerfield, of Bedford-street, Covent-garden, are the best and cheapest we have met with. 2. They can be sent by post, like any other printed matter, 4 oz. for a penny.

R. B. W. Bramham.—A very smart little problem.

H. A. N.—Simplicity itself! Admitting of the easiest possible solution in two moves.

R. G.—The Automaton Chess-Player, mentioned in our last as having been destroyed in the conflagration at Philadelphia, 1854, was the same figure that created so great a sensation in London and the Continental cities many years ago.

A. SUBSCRIBER.—There is good reason to hope that the Birmingham Chess Meeting will be delayed a short time in order that it may be held the same week with the expected gathering at Manchester during the Art-Treasures Exhibition.

SPECTATOR.—Arrangements are in progress for a renewal of the Consultation Games at the St. George's Club, or in some other equally eligible arena. Their temporary cessation has, no doubt, been prejudicial not only to the interests of the club but to Chess in this country generally.

BERNARD.—The difficulty you and others complain of in distinguishing the King's and Queen's Rook and Knight is completely obviated by the Staunton men, in which the King's pieces are designated by a small crown on the top.

T. M.—In playing games by correspondence, you will find one of Jacques' "In Statu Quo" boards and men of incalculable service. Indeed, for conducting games of this description with comfort, it is indispensably necessary to use this ingenious novelty.

A. M. R.—The amended version shall be examined.

JUVENIS.—Take a six months' course of Tomlinson's useful little book, "Amusements in Chess," and you will be astonished to find how little you knew of the game before. When thoroughly grounded in all that manual can teach you it will then be time to tackle the more difficult treatises you mention.

R. T. F.—We purpose recommending the Chess Enigmas very shortly, and are collecting a rich store for the purpose.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 676 by Omega, Fern, Simple Simon, Argus, Philo-Chess, J. D. C. W. H., Gregory, A. Clark, Will o' the Wisp, A. German, Alpha, Little Dorrit, The Original Northern Girl, Carr, Pawn, Ernest, A Gemine of Ninies, Pluto, Wilfred, Henricus, Tortoise, Rustic, F. K. Crampton, Box and Cox, A School Boy, Antony, Mango, F. R. S., Big Ben, Lovel, Digory, H. P. W., F. P. G. W., M. Arctic, Brixton, R. P. G., S. S., A Highlander, G. Munro, Old Salt, One of the 42nd, Barnacle, O. P. Q., A Casual Player, A Boarding-school Miss, D. D., Medicus, Peter, Chemicus, Fox-glove, are correct. All others are wrong.

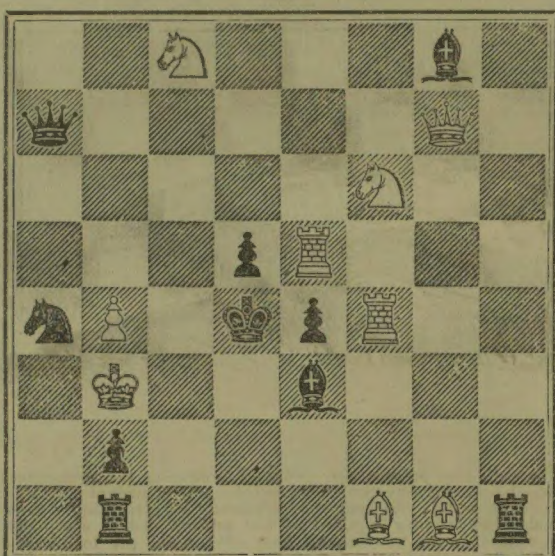
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM 676.

WHITE. BLACK. WHITE. BLACK.
1. Q to K R sq P to K B 4th (best) 3. Q to K R 5th (ch) Kt interposes
2. Q to Q R 5th Kt takes Q B P 4. Q takes Kt—Mate.

PROBLEM No. 678.

By J. E. RIES, of Stuttgart.

BLACK

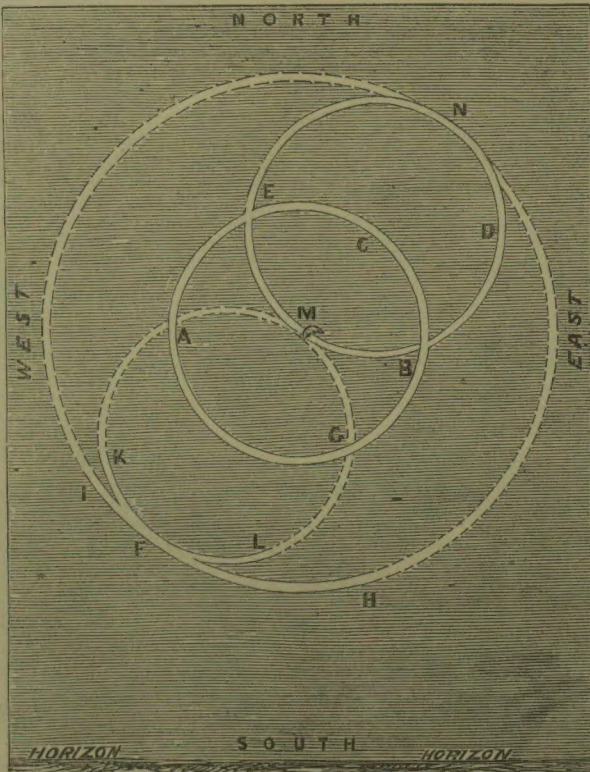


WHITE.

White to play, and mate in four moves.

REMARKABLE LUNAR PHENOMENON SEEN AT THE BEESTON OBSERVATORY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1857.

THE Lunar phenomenon seen here yesterday was so splendid a spectacle that it seems desirable to place a sketch of the appearance on record. It was visible from 8h. 30m. p.m., until nearly 11 p.m.; and consisted of a circle A E C B G (having the moon for its centre), whose horizontal diameter was 44 deg., and whose vertical diameter was 45½ deg.; width, 3 deg. A second circle (equal in size to the first-



mentioned one) B D N E M (having the apex of the circle A E C B G for its centre), which cut the first circle at E and B, and passed through the moon. A portion of a third circle, A M G L F K (having the base of the circle A E C B G for its centre), was visible from K to L; and a portion of another circle, I F H N (having the moon for its centre), was visible from I to H. The three first-mentioned circles were of the same size, whilst the diameter of the fourth was 90 deg. These circles were colourless, and oscillated as much as 0 deg. 40 min. The phenomenon was formed in cirrus haze, in other respects the sky was clear. Temperature, 24 deg.; wet bulb, 23 deg. 3 min.; wind N., and barometer (corrected) 30.120 inches. By eleven o'clock the clouds descended to a lower level, and the sky became overcast.

At the Highfield House Observatory the circles A G B C E and B D N E M were visible; and the apex of A G B C E (near C) was prismatic. The phenomenon being very brilliant attracted much attention.

Observatory, Beeston, near Nottingham, 1857, February 5th.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint the Right Hon. William Monsell to be President of the General Board of Health.

The Emperor of the French has ordered twenty-five magnificent opera-glasses (some of them to be ornamented with 2000 fr. worth of diamonds), which he intends to offer as a present to the Grand Duke Constantine when he arrives in Paris.

The Queen of Spain's visit to Andalusia is definitively given up, out of a desire, as stated, to spare the expenditure of the public money.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint Charles Henry Darling, Esq., Governor of Newfoundland, to be Governor of Jamaica.

The report current some time back has been revived that the Emperor of Russia will pay a visit to the Emperor of the French this spring.

The Grand Duke Michael of Russia has left Nice for Genoa. His Imperial Highness embarked at Villa Franca in a Russian vessel.

The Earl of Mansfield had a battle over his grounds at Scone last week. There were seven guns on the field, and about 750 head of game were killed, consisting chiefly of hares, pheasants, and woodcocks.

The Grand Duke Constantine arrived at Dresden on the 3rd of February, in the evening. His Imperial Highness was present, incognito, the same night at the representation in the Theatre Royal.

The majority of the papers and letters left by the Princess de Lieven are said to have been claimed by the Russian Embassy at Paris.

Sir Alexander Bannerman has been appointed Governor of Newfoundland.

Owing to the illness of Count Hatzfeldt, it is believed that Colonel von Manteuffel will be dispatched from Berlin to Paris on a private mission, in relation to the Neuchâtel affair.

The English Consul-General at Venice is expected at Milan under, it is said, special instructions from his Government.

The Emperor Napoleon has sent to the Emperor Alexander II. a magnificent copy of the "Imitation de Jesus Christ," printed at the Imperial printing-office in Paris. It was sent to Count de Kisseleff by the Minister of Justice. The Imperial Library of St. Petersburg purchased a copy of this work in 1855 at a cost of 6000 fr.

The Grand Dukes Michael and Nicholas have sent a superb church lamp to the temple of the Archangel Michael at Sebastopol, in commemoration of the time they had passed in prayer in that church. The lamp was accompanied with a complimentary letter to the Vice-Admiral Boutakov, one of the surviving defenders of Sebastopol.

M. Musurus, the Turkish Ambassador to England, having received the firman of the Sultan granting him concession for the Euphrates Valley Railway, Major-General Chesney and Mr. Andrew had an interview on Tuesday with his Excellency, with reference thereto.

Intelligence has been received at Alexandria of the death of King Theodore, who not long since proclaimed himself independent in the districts in the south of Egypt.

An Imperial decree in the *Moniteur* opens an extraordinary credit of 100,000 fr. for the expense of collecting and publishing the correspondence of the Emperor Napoleon I.

The Marquis Ferdinando Incontri, who married Miss D'Arcy Irvine, sister of the Viscountess Dungannon, a few years ago, died at Florence on the 24th ult.

The *Fædrelandet* states that the King of Denmark had been confined to his room by a severe cold, but that he is beginning to mend.

The *Presse*, and *Estafette* both contradict the statement of the *Revue Britannique* that Ledru-Rollin had left London for the United States. The great democratic tribune continues to inhabit the lodging where he has long lived in London.

General Count Osten-Sacken, who commanded the troops at Sebastopol towards the end of the siege, has, with General Sumarokoff, just been appointed member of the Committee of the Invalides. This is a sinecure given to veterans who have grown infirm in the service.

The Liverpool Town Council has resolved to invite Mr. W. Brown, M.P., to lay the foundation-stone of the new free library in the Easter Parliamentary recess.

The medical bulletins from Harewood House have within the last few days been of a more cheering character, and sanguine hopes are now entertained that the noble Earl will recover from the severe accident that befell him on the 24th ult.

Prince Paul Esterhazy has left Vienna for Pesth, to take part in the deliberations of several members of the Hungarian nobility on the ceremonies for the reception of the Emperor and Empress of Austria.

It is stated in a letter from St. Petersburg, of the 31st ult., that the Emperor on the previous day paid a visit to the Countess de Morny, the new French Ambassador, at the hotel of the French Embassy.

Mr. W. H. Schneider has withdrawn his claims to the representation of Hull, and Mr. James Clay is now the only candidate.

The Prince de la Moskowa, father of the Countess de Persigny, accompanied by the Baron de Vidil, arrived at the residence of the French Embassy on Monday, from Paris.

Great sensation is created in Austrian diplomatic circles by the statement that Aide-de-Camp-General de Grunne, who exercised great and irresponsible influence over the Emperor of Austria, has been placed in retirement.

The execution of the statue for which £1000 was left by Turner's will has been given by the trustees to Mr. MacDowall, R.A. It is to be erected in St. Paul's. The competitors were all Royal Academicians.

The Porte, considering the degrees of banishment issued by the Hospodar as illegal, permits all exiles from Moldavia and Wallachia to return to their country.

A Commission, to be composed of the resident Ministers of the three protecting Powers—Russia, France, and England—has been appointed to inquire into the state of the Greek finances.

A Royal decree from King Ferdinand convokes the District Councils of the Neapolitan provinces (not including Sicily) for the 15th April, and their sittings are to last for fifteen days. The Provincial Councils are to assemble on the 5th May, and sit till the 25th.

M. Flandrin, a member of the Institute, has been selected to replace M. Paul Delaroche as Professor of Painting at the Ecole des Beaux Arts.

It is stated that the East India Company will shortly invite tenders for the conveyance of upwards of 2000 troops from England to Madras.

The Department of Agriculture at St. Petersburg has published a notice that the Ministry of the Domains of the Russian Empire intends to organise exhibitions of agricultural productions and domestic animals during the ensuing summer in different parts of the empire.

The accounts from Spain as regards the food question are again becoming very alarming, and fresh *émigrés* are expected in the large towns.

A slight shock of earthquake was experienced on the night of the 31st ult. at Venice, Padua, and other towns of the Venetian territory. The motion was undulatory, from N.E. to S.W., and lasted about five seconds, without causing any damage.

The subscription in aid of the fund in course of collection for the relief of the sufferers by the loss of the *Violet* now exceeds £2000.

On the 12th of March a great Free-trade meeting is advertised to take place at Charleroi, which may be said to be the heart of the iron industry of Belgium, and on the 25th a similar meeting will be held at Namur.

Mr. Van Winkle, an American, has invented a machine which will make from fifty to sixty bolt nuts per minute, of any size, shape, or weight.

Terrible ravages have been caused in the neighbourhood of Libau by the larva of the Bombyx Monacha. Between Libau and Polangen whole forests have been destroyed by this insect, and the proprietors have cut down all the trees attacked.

The Madrid journals of the 4th mention that a secret society of Communists exists at Madrid, and that its distinctive signs are a domino and a poniard.

The Progressista party in Spain are actively organising their measures in reference to the approaching election of Deputies to the Cortes.

The Danish Council for the whole kingdom will be convoked for the beginning of March, for which purpose the present Session of the Danish Chambers and of the Schleswig Diet will be shortened by a week.

The cold was recently so intense in the south of France that the navigation was interrupted in the Canal du Midi, which was frozen over. Not fewer than 500 men were engaged in that city in filling the various ice-houses.

THE LONDON AND BIRMINGHAM IRON AND HARDWARE COMPANY (Limited). Offices and Warehouses, 253, Blackfriars-road, London.
Capital £50,000, in 10,000 shares of £50 each.
Deposit £12 per share.

John P. Murrell, Esq., M.P., New Inn, Strand.
John Harris, Esq., 56, Stamford-street, and Effingham House, Burslem, Surrey.
James Melrose, Esq., Hatton-garden, and Tivdall, near Dudley.
Henry Whitley Wood, Esq., 11, Leadenhall-street.
To be chosen at first General Meeting of the Shareholders.
BANKERS.
London Joint-Stock Bank, Princes-street, Mansion-house.
SECRETARY.
Mr. Edwin Guest.

This Company, as a consequence, have purchased an old-established business, with one of the largest stocks in London, situated at the corner of Holland-street, 253, Blackfriars-road, and 32, John-street, the late proprietor of which, Mr. Frederick F. Shaw, has engaged to continue in the active management of the concern, and to make his remuneration nominal, till after the Shareholders have received eight per cent dividend. From a most reasonable estimate it is calculated that fifteen per cent will be the lowest dividend ever paid. Applications for the remaining shares may be made to the Secretary, at the Offices, 253, Blackfriars-road.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK
SHARES.—A lot of thirteen old Shares (£35 paid) is offered to the highest bidder. 478 a share is already offered.—X. X., Post-office, Bath.

WEST HAM DISTILLERY COMPANY
(Limited).—Notice is hereby given that the works of the above Distillery being near completion the Directors will be open to receive orders for plain Spirit, to be supplied in February. Due notice will be sent round to the trade.
THOMAS WEBB, Manager.
Distillery, West Ham, 31st January, 1857.

ROYAL SURREY GARDENS.—First Grand Ball.—The SURREY BACHELORS' SEVENTH ANNUAL BALL will take place in the Large Hall, as above, on MONDAY, the 16th of FEBRUARY. Tickets, 2s. 6d., 7s. 6d.; double 11s. 6d.; at the principal music-halls, and at the Walworth Institution.

GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN.
18, Chancery-street, St. James's-square.
This Society was founded in 1833, by several Noblemen and Gentlemen, to promote the study of Genealogy and Historical Research, and for the facilitation and compilation of Family History, Lineage, and Biography, and to authenticate and illustrate the same.
By order in C. uncil.
RICHARD REEVE, Secretary.

FOR FAMILY ARMS, send to the
HERALDIC OFFICE
Name and County. No Fee for Search. Sketch, 3s. 6d., or Stamps.
H. SALT, Great Turnstile, Lincoln's-inn.

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First and only Established Office in London, and during a series of years have furnished, Sketched, Emblazoned, &c., Arms of most of the Nobility and Gentry.—H. SALT, Great Turnstile, Lincoln's-inn. GRANTS OF ARMS FURNISHED, Copied, &c.

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MONUMENTAL BRASSES.
Ecclesiastical Seals, Hatchments, &c. Arms Painted and Quartered.
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GENTLEMEN having SKETCHES, give
them to persons who do not engrave them by the Laws of Heraldry; therefore the Heraldic Office executes them. Book-plate Arms, 21s.; Crest on Seals, &c., 8s.—H. SALT, Turnstile, Lincoln's-inn.

HERALDIC SIGNET CREST RING.
Solid Fine Gold, Bloodstone, Onyx, or Cornelian, with Crest Engraved, £1 15s.; or Post-office Order. Presentation Seals, &c.
H. SALT, Lincoln's-inn Heraldic Office, Turnstile, Lincoln's-inn.

FOR FAMILY ARMS, send Name and
County to the Royal Heraldic Office. No charge for search. Sketch, 2s.—Mr. CULLETON, Genealogist, 2, Long-acre (one door from St. Martin's-lane).

FAMILY PEDIGREES TRACED from old
Heraldic Books and Manuscripts at the British Museum, 5s. Armorial Bearings registered at the College of Arms (the only legal office in London).—Mr. CULLETON, Genealogist, &c., Royal Heraldic Office, 2, Long-acre (one door from St. Martin's-lane).

HERALDIC STUDIO AND GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY, Open from Eleven to Four. Six Heraldic Engravers permanently employed. Book-plate, with Arms, 7s. 6d.; or Crest Plate, 5s. Crest on Seal or Ring, 7s. Arms painted and quartered.—Mr. CULLETON, Genealogist, Lecturer on Heraldry, &c., 2, Long-acre (one door from St. Martin's-lane).

ARMS, CRESTS, &c.—No Charge for Search.
Correct sketch and description, 2s. 6d.; in colour, 5s. Monumental brasses, seals, and diploma plates in Medieval and modern styles. Lever-press and crest-die, one guinea.
T. MORING, Middlesex Heraldic Office, 44, High Holborn, W. C.

ARMS, CRESTS, &c.—Gold Medal for En-
graving.—Crests on rings or seals, 8s.; on die, 7s.; arms, crest, and motto, 25s.; book-plate, 25s. Price-list by post.
T. MORING, Engraver and Heraldic Artist, 44, High Holborn, W. C.

SOLID GOLD 18 carat, Hall-marked, Oval.
Sard or Bloodstone RING, engraved with CREST, Two Guineas, or Shield-shaped, 45 Shillings; Seals, Desk Seals. Pencil-cases, &c.
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A GUINEA GOLD WEDDING-RING and
Hall-marked KEEPER, sent in a morocco box, to any part of the kingdom on receipt of 51s. Post-office order.—GEOFFREY DEWDNEY, Goldsmith and Jeweller, 172, Fenchurch-street, London.

ON BOARD H.M.S. "NORTH STAR" in
the ARCTIC REGIONS, for Two Years, the Ship's time was kept by one of JONES'S Levers, all other watches on board having stopped. In Silver, £4 4s.; in Gold, £10 10s.; at the Manufactory, 323, Strand (opposite Somerset House).—Read JONES'S "Sketch of Watch Work." Sent free for a 2d. stamp.

WATCHES.—A. B. SAVORY and SONS,
Watchmakers (opposite the Bank of England), 11 and 12, Cornhill, London, submit for selection a stock of first-class PATENT DETACHED LEVER WATCHES, which they have made by themselves, can be recommended for accuracy and durability. A warranty is given.
PRICES OF SILVER WATCHES.

Patent Lever Watch, with the improvements, i.e., the detached escapement, jewelled, hard enamel dial, seconds, and maintaining power to continue going whilst being wound .. £4 14 6
Ditto, jewelled in four holes, and capped .. 8 6 0
Ditto, the finest quality, with the improved regulator, jewelled in six holes, usually in gold cases .. 8 8 0

Either of the Silver Watches in hunting cases, 10s. 8d. extra.
GOLD WATCHES.—SIZE FOR LADIES.
Patent Lever Watch, with ornamented gold dial, the movement with latest improvements, i.e., the detached escapement, maintaining power, and jewelled .. 11 11 0
Ditto, with highly engraved case .. 12 12 0
Ditto, with very strong case, jewelled in four holes .. 14 14 0

GOLD WATCHES.—SIZE FOR GENTLEMEN.
Patent Lever Watch, with the latest improvements, i.e., the detached escapement, jewelled in four holes, hard enamel dial, seconds, and maintaining power .. 10 10 0
Ditto, in stronger case, improved regulator, and capped .. 13 13 0
Ditto, jewelled in six holes, and gold balance .. 17 17 0

Either of the Gold Watches in hunting cases, 23s. extra.
Any Watch selected from the list will be safely packed and sent free to any part of Great Britain or Ireland, upon receipt of a remittance of the amount.

SILVER PLATE, New and Secondhand.—A Pamphlet of Prices, with Engravings, may be had gratis; or will be sent, post-free, if applied for by letter.—A. B. SAVORY and SONS, Goldsmiths (opposite the Bank of England), 11 and 12, Cornhill, London.

MAPPIN'S ELECTRO-SILVER PLATE.
Messrs. MAPPIN'S celebrated Manufactures in Electro-Plate, comprising Tea and Coffee Services, Silver Dishes, Spoons, and Forks, and all articles usually made in silver, can now be obtained from their London Warehouse, No. 67, King William-street, City, where the largest stock in London may be seen.—Manufacture, Queen's Cutlery Works, Sheffield.

MAPPIN'S SUPERIOR TABLE-KNIVES
maintain their unrivalled superiority. Handles cannot possibly become loose; the blades are all of the very first quality, being their own Sheffield manufacture.
Buyers supplied at their London Warehouse, 67 and 68, King William-street, City; and Queen's Cutlery Works, Sheffield.

MAPPIN'S "SHILLING" RAZOR, sold
everywhere, warranted good by the Makers—Mappin Brothers, Queen's Cutlery Works, Sheffield, and 67 and 68, King William-street, City, London; where the largest stock of Cutlery in the world is kept.

FISHER'S DRESSING-CASES.
188, Strand.
Catalogues post-free.

ANTONI FORRE, ARTIST IN HAIR and JEWELLERY to the QUEEN,
By Appointment,
24, Baker-street, Portman-square,
(Opposite the Bazaar).
N.B. Anton Forrer has no connection whatever with his late establishment at 135, Regent-street.

CHARLES PACKER (late Antoni Forrer), ARTIST IN HAIR to the QUEEN, by Appointment.
Hair Jewellery Department, 136, Regent-street.
Foreign and Fancy ditto, 78, Regent-street.
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HAIR JEWELLERY.—Artist in Hair.
DEWDNEY begs to inform Ladies or Gentlemen resident in town or any part of the kingdom, that he beautifully makes, and elegantly mounts, in gold, HAIR BRACELETS, Chains, Brooches, Rings, Pins, Studs, &c.; and forwards the same carefully packed in boxes, at about one-half the usual charge. A beautiful collection of specimens, handsomely mounted, kept for inspection. An Illustrated book sent free.—Dewdney, 172, Fenchurch-street.

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TAKEN send for DEWDNEY'S PATTERNS OF BROOCHES, Lockets, Bracelets, &c., which are sent free on receipt of two postage-stamps. Registered Revolving Brooches in Solid Gold, to show either likeness or hair at pleasure of wearer, from 45s. each. A Gold Plated Brooch or Locket sent free to any part of the kingdom for 10s. 6d.—Dewdney, Manufacturing Goldsmith and Jeweller, 172, Fenchurch-street, City, London.

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One Guinea.
Hoods, Half-a-Guinea.
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Mrs. W. G. TAYLOR (late Halliday).

BABIES' BERCEAUNETTES,
Two and a Half Guinea.
Baskets to match, One Guinea.
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LADIES' RIDING TROUSERS,
Chamois Leather, with black feet.
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MARRIAGE OUTFITS, Complete.
Cotton Hosiery, 2s. 6d.
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Real Balmington Hosiery.
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For Little Girls, 2s. Guinea.
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At half the original Cost.
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FRENCH BAREGES, BALZARINES,
Printed Llamas,
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Half Price.
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The whole of the Stock of
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LADIES' HANDKERCHIEFS, with Christian Names embroidered by the Needle of Paris, with the most delicate needle. Price 1s. 6d., by post 14 stamps; 5s. 6d. the half-dozen, by post 5s. 3d.
FRENCH MUSLIN COMPANY, 16, OXFORD-STREET.

SEWELL and CO., in accordance with their
usual custom at this season, are PREPARING their SPRING STOCK, and in consequence, have reduced the whole of their WINTER GOODS remaining to such Prices as will ensure their immediate Clearance.

A large stock of Embroidered Cambric Handkerchiefs, 2s. to 6s. 6d. The Guinea and Half-Guinea Evening Dresses, in all colours. And a large quantity of last season's rich Silks, at half prices.
COMPTON HOUSE, 44, 45, and 46, Old Compton-street; and 46 and 47, Fritch-street, Soho, W.

IMMENSE ARRIVALS of NEW SPRING
SILKS (at greatly Reduced Prices).—Twenty Thousand Pounds' worth of the above Goods are now on Sale at BEECH and BERRALL'S, "The Bee Hive," 53, 54, Edgware-road, London, at a great reduction from present value—their extensive orders for the above being given to the Manufacturers prior to the great advance on all Silk Goods. Lot 1 comprises elegant and useful Silks, in striped, checked, broadened, and plain Glacé for Walking, Dinner, or Evening Wear, at 23s. 6d., 25s. 6d., 29s. 6d., 35s. 6d., and 39s. 6d. The Full Dress Lot 2, 1800 Rich Silk Robes for 2 or 3 Flounces suited for Promenade, Dinner, or Evening Wear, at 49s. 6d., 59s. 6d., to 5 Guineas, in endless variety (full length for body and trimming included). Great Bargains.
N.B. Patterns for inspection postage-free.

SILKS, Rich, Plain, Striped, and Checked
Glacé, at 22s. 6d. per dress of twelve yards. Well worth the attention of Families. Patterns sent by post.—JOHN HARVEY, SON, and CO., 9, Ludgate-hill. Established upwards of fifty years.

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THE GREAT SALE OF DRAPERY,
Silks, Cloaks, Ribbons, Lace, &c., &c., at 192, Regent-street.
A day having been fixed for the commencement of the alterations, and a portion of the Stock still remaining, which must be sold, Messrs. White and Company have made a still FURTHER REDUCTION in the prices, and will be ready on MONDAY NEXT, at ten o'clock, to submit the same to their patrons and the public at such prices as must effect an immediate Sale. There are some extraordinary bargains in rich Silks.

WHITE and COMPANY
(Late George and Bradley),
192, Regent-street.

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Whereas certain Parties are offering to the Trade a Collar got up in imitation of the Army and Navy four-fold Collar Patented by me for Great Britain in May, 1856,
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THE ARMY and NAVY SHIRT COLLAR,
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To be had everywhere. Note that all are stamped
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The above consists of four substances, and is the best Shirt Collar ever invented. Note all are stamped
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LADIES requiring FANCY NEEDLEWORK
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JUPONS à RESSORT DEPOSE.—For the
Ball-room, Promenade, or Travelling, these PATENT SPRING PETTICOATS are perfect; they never crease or get out of order, and are particularly graceful and ladylike. Packed in small box, and sent any distance upon receipt of a Post-office order for 16s. 6d. Address, Mrs. ROBERTSHAW 100, Oxford-street.

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REGISTERED FASTENING ATTACHED.
In Every Size and New Colour for the present Season.
THE BEST FITTING
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One Shilling and Sixpence per Pair.
RUMBLE and OWEN, Sole Agents,
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N.B. Sample Pairs forwarded for two extra stamps.

SILK SKIRTS READY-MADE.
600 Coloured and Black French Glacé and
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With Velvet, Bugle, Passementerie, and Crape Trimmings,
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RUMBLE and OWEN'S superbly-finished Steel-Plate
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Silk Robes, Entirely New for the Spring Fashions, forwarded
Gratis, with Patterns, postage-free!!!
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PARIS GLOVE WAREHOUSE,
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GLOVES AT THE OLD PRICES!!!
BAKER and CRISP
have just received
1100 dozen of the
Best Paris
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Which they are now selling
at 31s. per dozen,
or 2s. 7½d. per pair.
Notwithstanding the present high price
of Gloves at other houses.
B. and C. beg to acquaint their patrons
and the public generally,
that, previous to the advance in Kid Skins,
they fortunately entered into
articles of agreement with the well-known
firm of De la Fosse and Co., of Paris,
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the Spring and Summer of 1857,
and thus enabling them to sell
cheaper than any house in the world.
Sample Pair sent for two extra stamps.
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MECHLIN LACE, Exquisite Patterns, made
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VALENCIENNES LACE, 2d., 4d., and 6d.;
Insertions, 4d. and 6d. per yard—made of Thread by
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BREAKFAST CAPS, extremely pretty,
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Wholesale Skeleton Skirts from 7s. 6d.
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Any of the above Skirts can be sent by railway on receipt of
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IMPORTANT TO LADIES.—A Single Stay
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SHIRTS.—RODGERS'S IMPROVED
CORAZZA SHIRTS, Six for 31s. 6d. and 42s. For ease,
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SHIRTS.—RODGERS'S IMPROVED
COLOURED SHIRTS, 26s., 31s. 6d., and 37s. 6d. the half-
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Dogs, Pheasants, &c., &c. An assortment of Patterns, Book of
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THE NEW REFORM BILL at DOUDNEYS'
(Tailors and Cloak Makers, by Five Special Appointments, to
the Queen and Royal Families of England and France), 17, Old
Bond-street; 25, Burlington Arcade; 49, Lombard-street. Estab-
lished 1784.

THE PEN SUPERSEDED.—MARKING
LINEN.—The most easy, permanent, and best method of
marking all kinds of linen, silk, or books, is with the PATENT
ELECTRO-SILVER PLATES. Any person can use them. Initial
plate, 1s., name plate, 2s.; set of movable numbers, 2s.; crest, 3s.; with
directions, sent post-free for stamps. Movable alphabets, and stamps
with shifting dates.—T. CULLETON, Patentee, Heraldic Engraver to
the Queen, 2, Long-acre (one door from St. Martin's-lane), W. C.—
No travellers employed.

LESSEY'S MARKING-INK—the Blackest
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